

ES. TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995

Bullying victim hangs himself in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A 14-year-old Japanese schoolboy hanged himself in a school bathroom after allegedly being bullied by a classmate, police said Tuesday.

The boy, whose name was not disclosed, was found hanging from a pipe in a bathroom at a private school in the city of Osaka.

Police said the boy had been bullied for several months by a classmate who was larger and stronger than he. The boy's father said his son had been crying and acting depressed for some time before the tragedy.

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Tunisian official meets Arafat in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Tunisian official met Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in the self-ruled Gaza Strip on Tuesday to deliver a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Said Ben Mustapha, a junior minister in the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, crossed the King Hussein Bridge linking Jordan to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, went to self-ruled Jericho and from there to Gaza to meet Mr. Arafat. "My mission here is to deliver a message from President Zine El Abidine to his brother President Arafat," Mr. Ben Mustapha told reporters. He gave no details of the message. Mr. Arafat told reporters on Mr. Ben Mustapha's arrival he was touched by the Tunisian president's help to the Palestinian people, both in the past and at present. Mr. Ben Mustapha was accompanied by diplomat Mohammad Al Ajnaf, who will open Tunisia's first mission in Gaza. Two other Arab countries — Egypt and Morocco — and five European states have opened missions in Gaza.

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PLO police 'shot shopkeeper'

NABLUS (AFP) — Three men believed to be Palestinian police agents shot and seriously wounded the owner of a sweetshop in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus on Tuesday, witnesses said. Mohammad Taqieddin Al Masri, 51, was dragged out of his shop in the old quarter and seven bullets pumped into his legs without explanation. Witnesses said the three gunmen were known to be part of Colonel Jibril Rajub's preventive security force which roams across the West Bank from the autonomous enclave of Jericho. However, Col. Rajub told AFP: "They are not members of my service. They are hooligans."

Iranian rebels' offices attacked

NICOSIA (AP) — The Baghdad offices of the Iranian opposition group Mujahadeen Khalq were hit by two rocket-propelled grenades Tuesday but there were no casualties or damage, the group said in a statement. The Mujahadeen, Iran's main opposition movement, blamed the Iranian government for the attack, but did not give any evidence for its claim. It said that one missile hit the ground and another struck a wall. The attackers fled after they were fired upon from the office, the group said.

Bhutto renews offer to India

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto renewed Tuesday an offer of dialogue with India, saying "substantive" talks could take place during the Pakistani president's coming visit to New Delhi for a South Asian summit. President Farooq Ahmad Leghari is to attend the annual conference of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which is scheduled to begin on May 2. "Our doors for substantive talks remain open... our president travels to New Delhi next month for the SAARC conference," Ms. Bhutto was quoted as saying by the official Associated Press of Pakistan. However, she reiterated that Pakistan would continue its moral, political and diplomatic support to the separatist campaign in Indian-controlled Kashmir, which it calls a legitimate self-determination movement.

U.S. lawmakers visit Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Two American lawmakers of Lebanese ancestry met President Elias Hrawi Tuesday and called for a lifting of the eight-year-old U.S. ban on travel to the country. U.S. Representative Ray Lahood, of Florida, and Senator George Shadid, of Edwards, Illinois, arrived Monday for a two-week private visit. Beirut newspapers said the Republicans were invited by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, architect of the multi-billion-dollar reconstruction plan for the 1975-90 civil war. "It is time that this country has the opportunity to welcome businesses to help the country get back on its feet again," Mr. Lahood said, adding that there was little point in the ban, which was renewed in February for six months.

Polish envoy fails to see Americans

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq refused to let a Polish diplomat meet two American prisoners Tuesday, the day set for his weekly visit. No reason was given why Ryszard Krystosik, who looks after U.S. interests, was denied permission to enter the maximum-security Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital. Mr. Krystosik was ready with a GMC van filled with fresh food, soft drinks and reading material for David Daliberti and William Barlow.

King stresses need for national unity, cohesion

HM calls on professional unions to adhere to mandate, press to eliminate negative phenomena

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday called on all Jordanians to safeguard national unity and said that maintaining Jordan's achievements requires the highest degree of national cohesion and alertness.

The King, addressing a Council of Ministers session, emphasised the need for eliminating rumours and bridging all "gaps through which those who do not observe the country's highest interests and do not accept or resort to values, the Constitution, the National Charter and law could penetrate."

The King's reference appeared to be the recent violence at the University of Jordan among students which developed into rivalries between two communities. Top-level officials, including the speaker of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, ministers, lawmakers, and community leaders have been holding meetings to settle the dispute.

The King also called on professional associations to adhere to their traditional

role in helping upgrade the level of their professional performance.

It was a reference to the political role assumed by many professional associations and unions, which are used by critics of the Middle East peace process to advance their platform against the normalisation of Jordanian-Israeli relations after the two countries signed a peace treaty in October.

One of the mandates the King has given in his letter of designation to the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who assumed office in January, is to address the politics played by the professional associations.

In his comments to the Cabinet on Tuesday, the King also stressed the need for all Jordanian social sectors, groups and forces not to allow themselves to be "dominated by differences" and the necessity "to uphold public interests of the majority rather than the limited interests of the minority."

"The majority represents a comprehensive vision, seek-

ing to pursue creative work and building for the sake of all citizens," said the King.

National security and stability and the struggle to achieve a free and decent life are issues of major concern to Jordan, the King said.

The King also called for eliminating what he described as negative phenomena in the local press, saying it had negative bearings on the country's image and its relations with other Arab countries.

The King warned against "those who seek to foil Jordan's endeavours."

"We must not allow those who seek to undermine our attempts to infiltrate our ranks and obstruct our march towards a better future for our country and our nation," said the King.

Before chairing a session of the Cabinet, the King held a round of talks with Sharif Zeid.

The King briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his recent visits to France, the U.S. and Canada and said

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Suicide bombers also threaten PNA — Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) must either tackle suicide bombers or fall victim to them, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Tuesday.

"The Palestinian Authority will also fall victim to these madmen if it does not deal with the problem properly," he told a press conference at the Nahal Oz border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

"We expect the authority to do more and to do better against the killers of Hamas and Islamic Jihad who seek only to assassinate Israelis and kill the peace process."

The fundamentalist groups claimed two suicide bombings which left eight Jews dead in the Gaza Strip on April 9.

Israel has banned Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank from entering the country over the Passover holiday week, which ends Sunday.

Mr. Rabin went to Nahal Oz to inspect a new border fence built in the last year to try to stop Palestinians from

entering Israel illegally. But he stressed that Israel was motivated by security concerns. "We do not want to change our economic relations with the Gaza Strip," he said.

"We have to strike a balance" between stopping the attacks and enforcing hardship on Palestinians who work in Israel, he said.

The new fence would help, Mr. Rabin said, by keeping out illegal workers.

Mr. Rabin added that 105 Israelis had been killed by Palestinians since January 1994. Suicide bombers accounted for 67 of them.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hopes to be in a position to reach an accord with Israel in Cairo next week to hold the first Palestinian elections, chief negotiator Saeb Erakat said.

The two sides will hold a new round of talks in Egypt next Tuesday and Wednesday, the Palestinian local government minister told AFP.

"We hope to almost finish

Hebron mayor attacks curfew

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israel kept more than 110,000 Palestinians under round-the-clock curfew for a third straight day on Tuesday in Hebron while Jews flocked to the town's Ibrahimi Mosque on Passover holiday prayers.

The mayor of Hebron, condemned the confinement of Palestinians to their homes, a measure which he said was aimed at creating a "quiet atmosphere" for the week-long Jewish festival.

Palestinian sources said Israeli forces arrested two suspected Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) activists in Hebron on Monday night and found two bombs at the home of one of the men taken into custody.

"The people start to ask: 'What does the peace process bring to us?' Mayor Mustapha Natshe told Israel Radio. "We are under such severe measures — more than any other city — so the youth try to join Hamas and other radical movements."

Israeli authorities say Hebron has long been a hotbed of Palestinian militancy and that guerrilla squads are active in the town.

Palestinians say they feel threatened by armed Jewish settlers, citing the February 1994 massacre of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque by settler Baruch Goldstein.

On Sunday, Israeli security forces in Hebron shot dead three guerrillas from Hamas. The army said the men, shot in a car, were about to carry out an attack. The Palestinians accused Israel of killing them in cold blood.

Jewish settlers in the city welcomed the curfew against the Palestinian population.

"Many Jews are coming here. The atmosphere is festive and calm. We don't feel any tension in the air thanks to the security forces," said Rabbi Moshe Bleicher, head of a Jewish synagogue in the area.

Hundreds of settlers paraded and prayed in the West

Iraqi assembly studies oil plan

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi parliamentary committees began on Tuesday discussing a U.N. resolution allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil, ahead of a parliament meeting to give Baghdad's final position, the Iraq News Agency (INA) said.

INA reported on Monday night that Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh had chaired a meeting of the "specialised committees" in parliament to discuss the "dangerous dimensions" of the resolution.

Individual committees started discussing the resolutions on Tuesday, INA said.

Iraq's reaction to the U.N. plan, adopted last week on humanitarian grounds, has been uniformly negative.

The cabinet, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, rejected at the weekend the Security Council proposal, saying it was a "dangerous violation of Iraq's sovereignty and national unity for which the Iraqi people have paid rivers of blood."

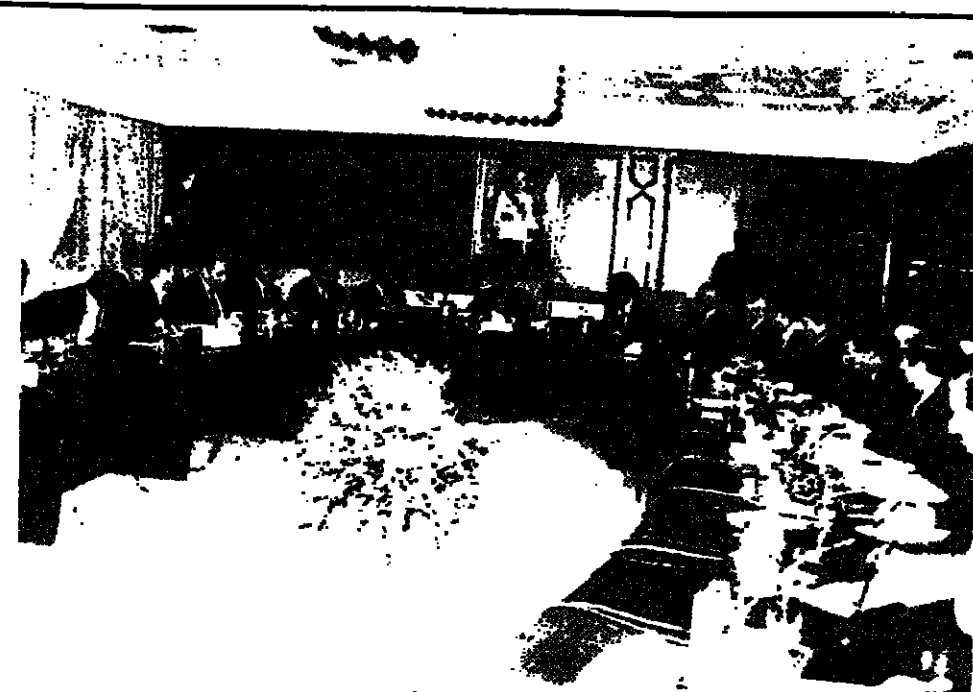
INA on Monday night quoted Speaker Saleh as tell-

Panel rejects deal

AN IRAQI parliamentary committee has rejected a U.N. plan for Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil to meet urgent humanitarian needs, the Iraqi news agency INA reported on Tuesday.

"Members of the environment committee at the National Assembly (parliament) have expressed their categorical rejection of the American (U.N.) resolution," the agency said.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday chairs a meeting of the Council of Ministers (Petra photo)

U.S. confident of enough votes for NPT extension

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States voiced confidence Tuesday it can sway enough votes to win indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) despite reservations by non-aligned and other states.

"We feel the outlook is favorable for extension" of the NPT, said John Holm, principal adviser to President Bill Clinton on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

Mr. Holm, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), called the international NPT conference that got underway here Monday a "historic opportunity" to extend the 25-year treaty indefinitely and unconditionally.

If the treaty were extended for a limited term, he said at a sidelines press conference, amendment would be "extremely daunting" and unlikely to succeed.

The United States and three other declared nuclear weapons states — Britain, France and Russia — are pushing for indefinite extension. The fifth nuclear power,

China, has not declared its position.

As the West lobbies hard for indefinite extension of the NPT, 79 countries have declared support, according to a Washington group.

The campaign for the Non-Proliferation Treaty said in a statement Tuesday that an additional 37 countries are "leaning yes," while indefinite extension is opposed by 17 states, with 23 "leaning no."

The 178 signatories are to vote on extension of the treaty towards the end of the conference May 12. A simple majority, 90 votes, are needed.

Positions among the Non-Aligned Movement and the Arab League remain varied. Some developing countries want a limited extension of one or more set periods, arguing the restriction will prod accelerated disarmament.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, opening the formal debate of the four-week conference, called for indefinite extension of the treaty on behalf of 21 European

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Tarshihhi to succeed Asem Ghosheh

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers on Tuesday appointed Ibrahim Mohammad Al Tarshihhi as director-general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs to succeed Asem Ghosheh, who has retired. In a session chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the council also endorsed an amendment to a trade and cooperation accord with Bahrain and approved the minutes of meetings of two countries held at ministerial level this week (see inside). The ministers also named Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarraf to head Jordan's delegation to a meeting of the Arabat company in Cairo and Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Snadi to head the Jordanian delegation to a meeting of a joint Jordanian-Tunisian committee. It also endorsed Jordan's participation in a regional meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organisation in Cairo.

Crown Prince in Doha for ATF meeting

DOHA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan arrived in Doha on Tuesday to chair a meeting of the general assembly of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) to be opened on Wednesday by Qatar's Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani.

Sheikh Hamad, who welcomed Crown Prince Hassan upon his arrival, held preliminary talks with him on pan-Arab issues and topics of common concern.

The two-day meeting of 70 Arab and Muslim intellectuals and scholars will discuss the ATF's activities in 1994 and a plan of action for 1995 and 1996.

Several working papers will be submitted from scholars from Jordan, Egypt and Kuwait.

The Crown Prince is accompanied by a Jordanian delegation which includes Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Mrs. Laila Sharaf, Dr. Jawad Anani and the chief editors of Jordanian dailies in addition to presidents of Jordanian universities.

Arab trade, cooperation

Before his departure for Qatar, Prince Hassan met at the Royal Court with the heads of Arab delegations to the fourth Arab contractors conference being held in Amman.

He told the audience that peace in the Middle East would not be at the expense of Jordan's relations with other Arab countries or Arab solidarity. Calling on Arab states to give Arab contractors a bigger share of projects in the Arab World, Prince Hassan predicted that the Arab region would witness an economic boom.

(Continued on page 7)

Libya bid for Haj flight is blocked

TRIPOLI (AP) — Libya was frustrated in its plan to start flights Tuesday for pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia in defiance of U.N. sanctions barring air travel to and from the country.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia rejected a request for Libyan planes to enter their air space for the journey, while Egyptian diplomats sought a way for Libyans to fly directly to Islam's holiest sites without violating sanctions.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi last month pledged to defy the air embargo starting Tuesday, putting fellow Muslim nations in the uncomfortable spot of either defying the sanctions or blocking pilgrims from their religious duty.

On Tuesday, the state news agency JANA quoted Colonel Qadhafi as accusing the United Nations as bowing to U.S. demands in maintaining the three-year-old sanctions.

"It is a tool in the hands of America," the agency quoted him as telling visiting African leaders in Tripoli.

State radio spoke of thousands readying for the trip, but this was not apparent at Tripoli's international airport, which was closed. At the adjacent domestic airport, about 75 Libyans waited for a flight to Benghazi on the Mediterranean coast. A portrait of Col. Qadhafi hung overhead.

In neighbouring Egypt, an official at Cairo international airport said authorities refused a request for clearance of flights from the capital Tripoli and coastal city of

Benghazi starting at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT).

"We told them we cannot allow these planes to fly through Egyptian air space" without a U.N. exemption, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He also said Saudi aviation officials informed Egypt that they refused permission to land. Saudi Arabia has said, however, it would welcome Libyan pilgrims under proper procedures.

In Tripoli, Saudi embassy spokesman Samir Naba said 5,000 Libyans were issued visas for the pilgrimage in the past 10 days.

The air travel ban is part of U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed to try Libya to turn over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The United States is a strong advocate of maintaining and strengthening the sanctions, which also include a ban on arms sales, limits on diplomatic relations and a freeze of some Libyan assets abroad.

Meanwhile, Egypt was making diplomatic contacts to seek a U.N. waiver for its aircraft to fly the pilgrims from Libya on humanitarian grounds since the Haj is a main tenet of Islam.

In New York, Karel Kovanda, the Czech U.N. ambassador and chairman of the Security Council's Sanctions Committee, said Monday night that he met several times with Egypt's Ambassador Nabil Al Araby for "exploratory talks" about Egyptian flights.

Jordan, Egypt, Israel and Palestinians meet

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli, Jordanian and Egyptian experts joined Palestinian specialists here Tuesday for talks on trade in line with the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process.

Rauf Saad of Egypt's Foreign Ministry told AFP that one of the aims of the four-way talks was to review a flurry of regional projects.

"We are overwhelmed by initiatives — at some point we have to take stock of all of them and coordinate them," he said.

The talks are part of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWIG) launched along with Arab-Israeli talks at the October 1991 Madrid peace conference.

They were to be attended by observers from the United States and the German-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

Talks concentrated on the formation of a regional business council, first proposed at a regional economic development conference held in Casablanca in October.

Judith Barnett, an advisor to the U.S. under-secretary of commerce, said the parties hoped to draw up a final proposal on the council before a follow-up to the Casablanca meeting, to be held in Amman in October.

The delegates also worked to define the differences between REDWIG and a similar initiative led by the United States, launched by trade ministers in the Egyptian

tian Red Sea port of Taba in February.

The United States will join the talks in Cairo Wednesday.

"Taba and REDWIG are not in conflict. The difference is that REDWIG is much larger, while Taba is a much more specific forum," Israeli negotiator Dan Cataraivas told AFP.

He added that the Taba meeting was originally an Israeli idea, although it was organised by U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

"We want to project to the world that the region is acting like a region," Mr. Cataraivas said.

He said that although the Arab boycott of Israel was not being discussed, "we are creating an atmosphere where it is null and void, a reality that is stronger than the boycott."

A European diplomat said the United States and Israel were "hoping to push more firmly economic cooperation in the Middle East, but the Egyptians don't want to go too fast and want to stay within the Madrid process."

Mohammad Shitayyeh, Palestinian negotiator at both the Taba talks and within REDWIG, said the multilateral talks "should be driving the bilateral talks and not vice versa."

Meanwhile, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority Tuesday discussed ways to boost trade ties and set up a joint free trade zone, the official Egyptian news agency MENA said.

U.S. faults Iraq for rejecting oil sales

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraq's rejection of a U.N. resolution that would have allowed limited oil sales proves Baghdad does not care about the suffering of its people, the U.S. State Department said on Monday.

Spokeswoman Christine Shelly said there has been no formal response to the U.N. Security Council's vote on Friday allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in exchange for food and medicine.

But she acknowledged informal reaction has been negative.

The United States hoped Iraq "would recognise that accepting the resolution and all of its provisions would be in the interests of the Iraqi people," she said.

"But I think that the degree to which they don't respond in that way once again provides more indication that they are not responsive and concerned about the suffering of their own people," she said.

Ms. Shelly said that rejecting the resolution showed that Iraqi officials "intend to continue to use the suffering as a kind of propaganda tool, particularly through the media and other public forms of expression, to try to seek the (complete) lifting of (U.N.) sanctions," imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The resolution removes excuses for the continued failure of the government of (President) Saddam Hussein to give priority to the humanitarian needs of its citizens," she said.

The sanctions have brought widespread hardships to the oil-rich country of 18 million people.

But Ms. Shelly stressed that "the issue here is who is responsible for that suffering. The international community also in the past has made the possibility of selling oil — limited quantities of oil — for as long as the proceeds would be used for humanitarian purposes... Iraq simply never chose to avail itself of that mechanism."

She added: "This was a new effort designed also to respond to some of the Iraqi concerns about this and the Iraqi government appears to have chosen once again to reject that."

Ms. Shelly also reported that two Americans being

held by Iraq have been moved to a smaller cell and said it had formally demanded Baghdad move the men to larger quarters pending their release.

"We have instructed the Polish diplomats in Baghdad to deliver another demarche, both written and oral, to Iraqi officials calling once again for the immediate release of Mr. (David) Daliberti and Mr. (William) Barloon on humanitarian grounds," Ms. Shelly said.

During the demarche — a formal diplomatic communication delivered in the past day or so — "The Poles expressed in the strongest terms their concern for the health of the two men as a result of their continued detention and requested that they be moved to a larger cell pending their release," she said.

Iraqi officials have indicated that the Polish diplomats, the U.S. protecting power in Iraq since Washington and Baghdad broke relations over the 1991 Gulf war, may visit the two Americans weekly.

Ms. Shelly said the Poles, who most recently saw the two men last Tuesday, will try to see them again Tuesday.

The Americans were arrested by border guards on March 13 after crossing Kuwait's border with Iraq. They have since been tried and jailed for a term of eight years, but plan an appeal.

The United States says the men, who work for private contractors in Kuwait, just made a wrong turn and should be released immediately.

Ms. Shelly said the prisoners "had been moved to a smaller cell with the explanation being given that they were doing some work on the cell that they had been in previously."

But so far they have not been moved back and hence "they're still in a very small and relatively stark cell."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said last week the Polish diplomats had brought the Americans a refrigerator to keep food from spoiling and other equipment and supplies during their visit last Tuesday.

Ms. Shelly said she did not think that all those goods had been moved to the smaller cell.

Turks bombard rebels with leaflets

TUNCELI (Agencies) Turkish army helicopters on Tuesday bombed rebels with thousands of leaflets urging them to come out of their ravine stronghold and surrender.

"We don't want to kill them, we only want them to surrender and take their place in society again," a military official in the eastern province of Tunceli told Reuters.

Two Sikorsky helicopters showered propaganda leaflets over Alibogazi ravine, where up to 500 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels are surrounded by about 25,000 Turkish troops, and other remote spots in Tunceli.

The leaflets call on the guerrillas to end their fight for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey and "take shelter in the compassion of the state."

Although international attention has focused on Turkey's military offensive against PKK bases in northern Iraq, the most intensive

fighting in recent days has been inside Turkey.

Military officials said troops opened fire on rebels trying to flee Alibogazi, a deep 30-kilometre gash in the Munzur mountains, under the cover of darkness on Monday night. The guerrillas were forced back into the ravine, they said.

Three PKK fighters were killed in another ravine in Tunceli on Monday, the military said.

The Tunceli offensive began shortly after 35,000 Turkish troops poured into northern Iraq on March 20 to destroy PKK bases there in an operation that has worried the West.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, on a visit to the United States, said on Monday her government was withdrawing some troops from northern Iraq but she declined to give a date for total withdrawal.

Western countries have urged Turkey to end the incursion into northern Iraq quickly out of concern for civilians.

Germany has frozen milit-

ary aid and European Union (EU) members have warned the operation might jeopardise a planned EU-Turkey trade pact, much prized by Ankara.

Turkey's National Security Council, an influential advisory body, reported suggested withdrawal from northern Iraq by mid-May.

However, Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu, the military spokesman, on Tuesday denied press reports that up to 10,000 soldiers were pulled out of northern Iraq over the past few days.

Col. Silahcioglu told the Associated Press that Turkish units were changing locations in northern Iraq occasionally but there were no withdrawal into Turkey.

Turkey pulled out 3,000 soldiers from northern Iraq on April 8.

In Brussels, the Kurdish parliament in exile said on Tuesday it had held its first sitting and appealed for political dialogue with Turkey to end the Kurdish conflict.

"We think the only solution to the Kurdish problem

is through dialogue we want to resolve this through democratic means," Zubeir Aydar, head of the parliament's executive council, told a news conference in Brussels.

"We are not separatists. Our desire is to speak to the government in Ankara," he added.

Asked whether the parliament had approached Turkey officially for talks, Mr. Aydar said the media were being used to relay an appeal for dialogue.

The parliament, which was inaugurated in the Hague on April 12, met in an unidentified location in Europe last weekend to appoint an executive council and draw up a list of committees.

Mr. Aydar said the parliament had passed a resolution on April 16 calling for dialogue. But the resolution also said the Kurds would still have the right to defend themselves.

"A war of annihilating the Kurds is in the works and the Kurds have the right to defend themselves."

Kuwaiti columnist hits 'official corruption'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti columnist on Tuesday lauded a parliamentary report that recommended prosecution of defence officials it said had wasted billions of dollars under failed policies that continued to weaken national security.

"If it was not for parliament and the relative margin of freedom, these violations would have remained unknown, like many other (violations)," prominent columnist Abdul Latif Duaij said in an article published in Al Qabas newspaper.

"We believe that the aforementioned violations represent no more than a drop in a shower of corruption and the extravagance that is nesting in all of the state bodies with no exception."

Al Qabas on Monday published a parliamentary fact-finding sub-committee report that listed arms and military contracts where it said suspected or unspecified violations involving wasted funds had taken place. The report was presented to Kuwait's parliamentary speaker on Monday.

The committee, investigat-

ing all aspects of the crisis with Iraq that preceded the 1990-91 occupation, created the panel in 1993 to probe opposition charges that officials had made illegal earnings from arms deals over the decade.

"If luck had put the Defence Ministry under the microscope, putting any institution or government department under the same condition will reveal similar violations," Mr. Duaij, a frequent critic of government policies and alleged mismanagement, wrote.

The panel said if the policies did not improve, Kuwait would remain exposed to a "catastrophe" such as the 1990 invasion.

"At least arrange, using these funds, a helicopter for every family in preparation for escape (in case any major threat occurs)," wrote another Al Qabas columnist, Najid Saud Al Zaid.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies said Kuwait, rebuilding defences looked or destroyed by Iraq, has been the world's top per capita spender on arms since the 1991 Gulf war.

Carter concerned over Sudan truce violations

ATLANTA, Georgia (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who brokered last month's ceasefire in Sudan, expressed concern Monday at reported violations of the truce in Sudan.

"I call upon all parties to exercise restraint and to observe the ceasefire commitments," Mr. Carter said in a statement, citing reported violations in the south of the March 27 ceasefire.

Government and rebel leaders have interpreted differently those ceasefire provisions addressing how civilians and troops may receive food and other necessities during the truce, he said.

"After 13 years of devastating civil war and fratricide there is little trust among the warring parties in Sudan," Mr. Carter said.

The former president urged that no weapons be included in supply convoys, no attacks launched in advance of a convoy, and public notice given before any such movement.

Mr. Carter, president from 1976-80, now heads the Carter Center in Atlanta. Violations of the ceasefire began within days of its declaration, notably in the Lafor region. In Nairobi, Sudanese rebels said on Monday that government planes heavily

bombed villages in southern Sudan.

The South Sudan Independence Army (SSIA) led by Riek Machar said Russian-made Antonov transport planes bombed villages of the Pari people and others held by rebels in eastern Equatoria on Sunday.

It said raids centred around the village of Lafon, captured by government forces a week ago, and were a continuing violation of the ceasefire brokered by Mr. Carter at the end of last month.

"We urge the international community to condemn Khartoum for its acts of terrorism against the innocent civilian population," said an SSIA statement.

The alleged violation was the third reported by SSIA since the two-month ceasefire as part of Mr. Carter's campaign to eradicate the parasitic guinea worm and river blindness which are endemic in the south.

John Garang, who heads the mainstream rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said last Tuesday that fighters from breakaway factions such as SSIA were rejoining his movement under pressure on the ground for unity against Khartoum.

Uproar over sex harassment of Israeli female soldier

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army's image as a place of harmony between the sexes has taken a beating, with a discharged woman soldier accusing her commander of persuading another soldier to seduce her and secretly videotape them having sex.

The charges caused an uproar among feminists and rekindled a debate about the role of women in a military that has mostly relegated them to making coffee and filling out forms.

The 20-year-old woman, identified in media interviews only as A., said that the soldier received a vacation and other perks from the commander after he produced the videotape a year ago, and the tape has since circulated among male soldiers at the base.

"I'll never forget this," said A., described as an immigrant from the former Soviet Union. "I really want

the soldier and the commander to be punished for what they did to me."

The army spokesman termed the accusations "very serious" and said they were being investigated. But A. maintained that military police have dragged out the inquiry for five weeks and tried to convince her to drop the case.

A., who served as a clerk on the base, told Israel Radio that a soldier told her about the tape two weeks before her discharge. Only then, she said, did she understand why for months soldiers had harassed her with sexual allusions and comments.

"Soldiers started talking about my body as if they had seen me naked. They would make cruel, personal and intimate comments."

Noami Hazan, a lawmaker active in women's rights, said the incident reflected widespread sexual harassment in

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ben Eliezer recovers after triple bypass

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer was recovering Tuesday after a triple heart bypass, doctors said. The 58-year-old reserve general was conscious and described as "satisfactory." He had suffered heart problems for the last six months.

Britain to send trade mission to Syria

LONDON (AFP) — Britain will next week send its first official trade delegation to Syria in 10 years, a government statement said on Tuesday. The mission from April 24 to 27 will be led by Minister for Construction and Planning Lord Ullswater and include a delegation of around 15 businessmen. Mr. Ullswater said in the statement that the mission would "concentrate on exploring opportunities for British construction and consulting companies." He said Syria's population was growing at over three per cent a year, and that British companies had the skills to help Damascus meet infrastructure demands caused by such an expansion. "The recent liberalisation of the private sector in Syria and continuing economic reforms mean that now is the right time to visit and for British companies to explore the opportunities for cooperation with local companies," he said. Areas of interest to British companies lay in the fields of water treatment and supply, power distribution and transmission, and general construction.

UAE seizes hashish in ketchup

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Police here have seized nearly 100 kilograms of hashish arresting five Pakistanis trying to smuggle the drugs in ketchup from the U.S. fast-food chain McDonalds, officials said on Tuesday. The five were arrested last week just outside Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as they were trying to smuggle the drugs into the emirate in a truck, Matar Al Muhairi, chief of the Abu Dhabi anti-drug squad, said. "They used ketchup bottles and other food products by McDonalds and two other international food firms to smuggle the narcotics," he told AFP. "It was one of the most dangerous drug operations in Abu Dhabi. The smuggling technique they used was extremely accurate and sophisticated. They could have succeeded if we were not alerted about them two months ago." Mr. Muhairi said the drugs were destined for Abu Dhabi, which has a population of around 800,000. "It is a very large amount compared to the population," he said. Some of the five were residing in the UAE but declined to say where the drugs had come from.

Israel delivers spy drones to U.S.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has delivered the first of seven advanced unmanned spy planes to the Pentagon in \$240 million deal, an Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) spokesman said Tuesday. The Hunter joint tactical unmanned aerial vehicle is a production of the IAI and the U.S. firm TRW Avionics and surveillance group. The other six planes will be delivered by September. The first Hunter was to be transferred to the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps on April 30. The aircraft can stay in the air for eight hours and infiltrate up to 150 kilometres behind enemy lines, day or night. It provides reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition support through daylight television and forward-looking infra-red sensors.

Pharaonic artifacts found in sewer

CAIRO (AFP) — Workmen discovered 11 pharaonic artifacts, including nine bronze statues, while digging a sewer in a northern suburb of Cairo, the head of the Supreme Council for Antiquities announced Monday. Abdul Halim Nureddin said the find in Al Qanater Al Khairiya included five statues of the god Osiris, a statue of the goddess Bastet, another of the god Horus as a child and two of an unidentified crowned deity. They also found an object believed to be a container for kohl, a Middle Eastern mascara used by the pharaohs, and a pestle and mortar. Mr. Nureddin said the objects probably belonged to the late pharaonic period or the early Greco-Roman era.

Kurds lose trust in U.S. after Turkish incursion

SALAHADIN (AFP) — Many Iraqi Kurds have lost their trust in the United States which was hailed as their great hope after the 1991 Gulf war but is now seen as backing the Turkish incursion into northern Iraq.

"America is a traitor. It supported the Turkish invasion and doesn't care whether we, the poor people, have to suffer at the hands of Turkish soldiers," said Sulfi Ahmad, an old woman in a border village.

Villagers have complained of Turkish army harassment and looting since more than 30,000 soldiers penetrated the border on March 20 to hunt down Turkish Kurdish separatist guerrillas from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

After the Gulf war, when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraq out of Kuwait, the United States and its allies set up an air force operation in south-east Turkey to help protect

Iraqi Kurdistan from attack by Baghdad.

Then U.S. President George Bush was hailed as a hero by ordinary Kurds. "We fled to Turkey and were refugees there until 1991. With the hope the Americans gave us and the international help, we returned and rebuilt our villages," destroyed by the Iraqi army, said a Christian woman.

"But again we are let down. I can tell you, from now on, I trust nobody," said the woman, who fled yet again, with her seven children abandoning their belongings, after her village was the target of a Turkish air raid.

"Did they ever come to see our misery?" she asked, referring to the allied force known as the Military Coordination Command in the border town of Zakho.

"They drive around with their armed vehicles but what

do they do? Nothing. Even they follow the restrictions imposed by the Turks," said a young man in Zakho who also asked not to be named.

Against the background of anti-Turkish protests in areas outside Turkish control — such as the burning of Turkish flags — such as the burning of Turkish flags in Erbil and Sulaymaniyeh — anti-American feeling is on the rise, Kurdish officials said.

"The result of it will be that more of them will join the PKK," predicted an official of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), to which Ankara says it wants to want over responsibility for border security after its pullout.

"Since they link the Turkish incursion directly with America's backing, they won't trust anybody else any more," said the official. "At least the PKK has not cheated them and even gives them work as smugglers."

In Ankara on Tuesday, a high-level U.S. delegation turned up the pressure on Turkey to end its military operation, saying that "force

alone is not the answer."

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said the way to eliminate the threat Turkey faces from separatists based in northern Iraq was to "restore the rule of law" in the region.

"That depends on the formation of a government in Baghdad that represents all of the Iraqi people and that maintains peaceful relations with all its neighbours," he said.

"In the meantime, only the Iraqi Kurds can control the border and prevent the PKK from infiltrating terrorists into Turkey."

"Thus, the U.S. and Turkey must renew our efforts to bring to a halt the violence between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq," Mr. Talbott said, referring to months of clashes between the KDP and its rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The United States, a close ally of Turkey, has supported the drive against the PKK but called for the operation to be limited. In contrast, European countries have strongly criticised the incursion.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00	The Flintstones
14:30	Hot Shots
15:00	Breakman's World
15:30	Movies, Games, and Videos
16:00	Amazing Stories
16:30	Tarzan
17:00	Les Raisons Laveurs
17:30	Tarzan
18:00	News in French
18:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
19:00	E-16
19:30	The Marvellous Machine
20:00	G.P.
20:30	Berlin Break
21:00	News in English
21:30	Piran
22:00	Dandelion Dead
23:10	Keeping Up Appearance

PRAYER TIMES

04:38	Fajr
06:00	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:36	Dhuhr
14:13	'Asr
19:11	Maghrib
20:32	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switich, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terremonta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717321.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751.
St. Ann International Church Tel. 625726.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop further with skies cloudy to partly cloudy. Scattered showers are expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom, and winds becoming westerly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 8/17
Amman 8/17
Aqaba 14/24
Deserts 7/19
Jordan Valley 14/21

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 25 Aqaba 31, Humidity readings: Amman 90 per cent, Aqaba 60 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736011
Dr. Youssef Nasr 751144
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 792288
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairatkh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairatkh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shoaqiri 246140
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rajih Saqr 901290
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 684390
Traffic Police 684390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 630321
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Ehssein Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 684545
Al-Muhsin Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajiroun 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, J. Amn 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 612240/50
ARQA:
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hilana Modern Hospital (09)999990
Princess Basmah Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:45	Aqaba (RJ)
09:15	Jeddah (RJ)
10:05	Larnaca (RJ)
10:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
17:45	Istanbul (RJ)
18:30	Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:10	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:10	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:40	Rome (RJ)
08:40	Beirut (RJ)
01:20	Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:35	Cairo (MS)
08:10	Jeddah (SV)
11:30	Amsterdam (KL)
15:30	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
15:30	Algiers (AH)
17:45	Beirut (BA)
21:20	Beirut (ME)
22:40	Istanbul (RJ)
22:55	Larnaca (CY)
23:20	Amsterdam (KL)
23:30	Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Aqaba (RJ)
11:30	Rome (RJ)
11:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:55	Berlin, London (RJ)
12:50	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:50	Istanbul (RJ)
20:10	Colombo (RJ)
20:35	Beirut (RJ)
20:40	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Riyadh (RJ)
21:45	Aden (RJ)
22:05	New Delhi (RJ)
22:25	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
23:45	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45	Beirut (ME)
11:30	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Jeddah (SV)
16:20	Sharjah (AH)
16:30	Abu Dhabi, Larnaca (RJ)
22:55	Larnaca (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple	650/650
Banana	650/650
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	140/170
Carrot	180/180
Cauliflower	160/120
Cucumbers (large)	80/120
Cucumbers (small)</	



Nesime Dokur, sister of murder victim Nihal Abequa, stands while giving her testimony before a three-judge panel at the criminal court Tuesday. (Photo by Rana Hussein)

Court hears 3 American witnesses in Abequa case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three Americans Tuesday testified for the prosecution in the trial of a Jordanian-American accused of killing his wife and kidnapping his two children in the U.S. to Jordan.

The prosecution is trying to prove that Mohammad Ismael Abequa had volatile temper and that he had threatened to kill his wife in the past.

During a five-hour session, witnesses Nesime Dokur, the victim's sister, detective Gary Denamin and Linda Sue Montgomery, a travel agent, who arrived from the U.S. to testify, recalled before a three-judge panel the events that occurred before and after the July 4 murder.

Mr. Abequa, a Jordanian with U.S. citizenship is accused of strangling his wife Nihal, 40, in her apartment in New Jersey on July 4, then fleeing the United States with his two children, Lisa 7, and Sami 4.

Ms. Dokur, dressed in black, testified first. She told the court that problems between Mr. Abequa and her sister had started after Lisa was born.

"I witnessed some of their fights and arguments, and Mohammad was always complaining that he was not happy with his life," Ms. Dokur said.

She added that a large row erupted between the couple once and Mr. Abequa called a family meeting.

She said that Mr. Abequa told them he "wanted a servant and not a wife," and that she told him then: "If you want a servant you can go and find another servant."

She added, that he almost struck at her for saying that but "my sister pleaded with him to calm down so he would not hit her or hit one of the family."

She said that she later found a letter in her sister's papers from Mr. Abequa apologising for his anger that day and attributing it to anguish he suffered as a result of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war when he was serving with the army.

A few days before the murder, Ms. Dokur recalled that her sister, who was then separated from her husband, called to say he was coming to visit.

She said her sister called again and told her that she was scared and that she wanted to go to a motel, but a few minutes later, Nihal called back and said: "If I don't make him angry he will not hurt us," and Ms. Dokur said, "I respected her decision."

On July 3, Mr. Abequa came to visit her and when his wife told him that her mother was staying with her, he told her he would come back the next day, the witness recalled.

On July 3, Ms. Dokur said, she went and picked her mother and "that was the last time I saw (Nihal)," her sister.

Sobbing most of the time, Ms. Dokur described how after making two visits to her sister's home on July 5 and 6, she called police, who by then had discovered Nihal's body stuffed under her bed.

When detective Denamin was called to the stand the defence objected challenging the legality of a foreign detective testifying in a Jordanian court of law. However, after consultation among the three judges the court decided to hear Mr. Denamin's testimony.

Mr. Denamin testified that his investigations on July 4 proved that Nihal's husband visited his wife's apartment.

After interviewing Mr. Abequa's friends and co-workers in Nashville, Tennessee, where the accused was living, the detective said he learnt Mr. Abequa told one of his friends that he was leaving the country.

The third witness, 29-year-old Linda Sue Montgomery, an employee of American Airlines, who was on duty when Mr. Abequa and his two children left Nashville for London on July 5, said that the accused had reserved three seats on July 3.

Ms. Montgomery said she remembered Mr. Abequa because he did not have the appropriate documents to enter England or Holland since his final destination was London.

The court will reconvene May 3 to hear the defence.

High level PNA team to arrive for talks on cooperation, agreements

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high-level delegation representing the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) arrives here Wednesday for two days of talks with Jordanian officials on cooperation and concluding agreements in various sectors.

The seven-member team will be headed by Yasser Abed Rabbo, minister of culture and information in the PNA based in the Gaza Strip, and will include the PNA ministers of transport, civil affairs, telecommunications and economy as well as the head of the Palestinian Monetary Authority.

The PNA ministers' Jordanian counterparts and senior officials from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will attend the talks.

According to officials, the talks will focus on outstanding issues in the way of entering agreements on cooperation between the Kingdom and the PNA as called for in a broad accord signed by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Jan. 26.

Accords on cooperation in monetary and banking affairs, trade, postal services and communications as well as culture and sports have been signed.

Political sources said the issue of the presence in Jordan of members of the militant Hamas group, which opposes the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal, is not expected to be an issue during the talks.

Mr. Arafat called on Jordan last week to curtail the activities of the Jordan-based Hamas members. The Jordanian authorities asked the concerned people to restrict their activities to those accepted as Jordanian citizens and not as spokesmen or representatives of a foreign political group which does not enjoy legal status in the Kingdom.

At the same time, Jordan also rejected that the Kingdom was condoning "terrorist" activities as implied by the PNA.

This week's meetings come in line with the stipulations in the Jan. 26 accord that call for regular consultations between the two sides and definite agreements in various sectors.

One of the key accords that remain to be finalised covers the transport and trade sectors.

During the last meeting, the two sides were reported to have drawn up lists of Jordanian and Palestinian products that would enjoy preferential treatment and those which would be subject to taxation and customs on both sides.

The lists, which contain only those items that Jordan can export to Israel under a separate accord signed by the PLO and Israel, could be finalised during this week's talks.

In the transport sector, an accord would depend on the infrastructure available to the Palestinian National Authority.

In this week's talks, the PNA delegation is expected to seek Jordanian help in exporting Palestinian products and facilitate the flow of Palestinian exports through Jordanian territory.

In banking and monetary affairs, the PNA team is expected to brief Jordan on the status of Palestinian efforts to secure International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance for training of Palestinian Monetary Authority personnel by Jordanian experts.

Jordan has agreed to assign CBJ experts to train Palestinians. The expected IMF assistance to pay for the experts will come from the IMF's cooperation programme with the PNA.

An agreement in principle to this effect was reached during discussions the CBJ held with a visiting PNA delegation in March.

According to informed sources, the PNA appears to have shelved its plans to issue a Palestinian currency if only because of the potential problems it could create that would edge out the symbolic nationalistic gain that the authority envisaged.

Jordan and the PNA signed an accord last week on cooperation in sports. Under the accord Jordan will help the PNA in developing the infrastructure for sports activities, offer training and exchange visits by sports teams.

Cabinet approves JD12m youth and sports plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday endorsed a Ministry of Youth study which provides for launching a four-year, JD 12,977,000 youth and sports plan.

Youth Minister Awad Khleifat said the Cabinet's decision was in implementation of the Royal letter of designation to the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, noting that the letter instructed the government to pay due concern to the youth and to invest their capabilities in building the country.

The plan, said Dr. Khleifat, aims mainly to make available the necessary sports facilities to the youth and underlined that there can be no active youth movements in the Kingdom without having such facilities.

He said despite that this plan is less than the aspired goals in view of the available resources, it can be considered a serious start for preparing a clear-cut strategy for developing the youth and sports movements in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Youth prepared the study in 1988 and set up a committee whose task was to find ways to develop the sports and youth sectors.

The ministry also held a conference to develop the sports movement in Jordan under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in 1993, and then the 1988 plan was adopted and an executive committee was set up to follow up its implementation.

Initially the plan stipulated launching projects worth JD 35 million which were later reduced to only JD 12,977,000 because of the lack of resources.

According to Dr. Khleifat, the plan entails carrying out seven projects.

He said these projects are establishing the Jordan Olympic Centre which will be used to prepare and train coaches and youth leaders, a centre to prepare national teams, low-cost sports facilities and playgrounds, the national sports medicine centre, model youth centres, the young men's house and the disabled sports project.

Dr. Khleifat stressed that the ministry will be carrying out other projects along with those included in the plan, such as the Zarqa Governorate youth city and others.

Minister requests court cancellation of Jordan Medical Association election

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Health Minister Aref Batayneh Tuesday requested the public prosecutor to contend the Jordan Medical Association's (JMA) decision to continue to include a West Bank physician on the JMA executive council as being illegal following Jordan's 1988 decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the occupied territory.

Since 1968, only nine of the executive council's 10 members have been elected by the general assembly in Amman. The 10th member has until now been a representative of West Bank physicians, elected in separate elections in Jerusalem within two months of the Amman elections. Currently, the West Bank seat is held by Dr. Farouk Abdul Rahim.

The minister of health had prior to the election in-structed the association to elect the 10th council member locally, but members defied this order, which they said amounted to interference in the association's laws.

The health ministry is contesting the results of the April 7 JMA elections and is seeking the help of the public prosecutor to cancel the results and ensure that the 10th executive council is filled by a Jordanian JMA member.

JMA President Ishaq Maraga was quoted earlier as saying that the dispute could have been avoided had the ministry's request reached the JMA prior to its annual meeting on March 31.

According to the April 7 election results, Mohammad Batayneh would have taken the 10th seat on the JMA board.

Bassam Dajani, the first member of the Islamic Action Front to win the presidency of the JMA executive council, said that Dr. Batayneh's bid to cancel the results of the elections was expected.

He said the public prosecutor is bound to submit the case to the court, and the JMA executive council will wait to see and examine the charge sheet before replying.

However, he said, the executive council, which conducted the elections in accordance with the JMA by-laws, would have to comply with the court order because no one is above the law.



Aref Batayneh

Abul Ragheb returns from Bahrain saying visit reaffirmed strong ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb Tuesday returned to Amman from Manama, declaring that his trip was highly successful and fruitful.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency Petra upon his return, the minister said that his visit at the head of a Jordanian delegation reaffirmed the strong ties between Jordan and Bahrain and resulted in the two countries declaring their determination to further strengthen bilateral ties at all levels.

The minister who led the Jordanian side to a joint Jordanian-Bahraini committee meeting had met with the country's ruler Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Khalifeh and key ministers to discuss issues of common concern and signed a protocol upgrading that of 1975 on trade, industrial, cultural, tourism, transport and agricultural cooperation.

Together with Bahraini Minister of Trade and Agriculture Habb Qassem, Mr. Abul Ragheb signed the deal Monday providing for mutual cooperation in industrial, economic, transport, cultural and financial fields.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also noted that Jordan expressed readiness to provide Bahrain with its needs of teachers, doctors and other expertise and secured Bahrain's acceptance of its active participation in the Amman economic summit due to be held in October.

The minister opened a Jordanian industrial fair in Manama in which 45 Jordanian firms are displaying samples of their products.

He was accompanied on the trip by the directors of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mohammad Snadi, and other officials from the ministries of Industry and Trade, Labour and Finance and the Customs Department.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS: Sudanese Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ibrahim Ahmad Omar Tuesday visits the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST). Mr. Omar, who was accompanied on the visit by Higher Education Minister Rateb Saoud, was briefed by HCST Secretary General Hani Muliqi on the duties of the council as well as the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in developing and upgrading Jordanian industries. Mr. Omar also visited the Arab Universities Federation and met with its Secretary General Ihab Hassan Isma'il, who presented an outline on the federation's duties. He also visited the Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies and the Amman Applied Engineering College (Petra photo)

Justice minister urges dialogue, united efforts at Afro-Asian meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Justice Minister Hisham Tal, addressing a ministerial meeting of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Commission in Doha, said Asian and African countries have so far been unable to influence the decision making process and the policy makers, in view of these countries' preoccupation in the quest for political independence and social liberalisation.

The minister called on Asian and African experts on international law, who are members of the International Law Commission, to stand united in defending the interests and concerns of their respective peoples and governments.

He also called on them to initiate dialogue with other groups to reach positive results, capable of achieving the minimum economic and social aspirations of their own peoples.

He stressed the importance of putting an end to wars and civil strife, and suggested opting for dialogue and cooperation to achieve socio-economic development for their countries.

Mr. Tal said Jordan had succeeded in taking the peace option, a strategic target for Jordan at the current stage.

Jordan has been able to restore its territorial and water rights through the Middle East peace process, he said.

The minister added that a just and comprehensive peace on all Arab-Israeli tracks, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, will bring about a new age of development, solve the refugee and displaced persons problem and protect the regional environment.

Mr. Tal called for implementing provisions of the United Nations Charter, saying that it will help to create a new world dominated by justice, freedom and the rule of law.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Young Winston" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EARTH WEEK

- ★ Earth Week activities (consisting of an exhibition of catalogues by major environment-oriented companies, student and school presentations, business seminars for professionals, electronic dialogues between experts in the U.S. and their Jordanian counterparts, public awareness demonstrations and more) at the American Center.

DIALOGUE

- ★ Dialogue with Palestinian writer Mohammad Taha entitled "Story Experience Among Palestinians of 1948" at Darat Al Funun at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Sa'id Haddadin at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 13 leading Jordanian artists at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mahruq Din Adhni at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuhes.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Na'wash at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinhold at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhaba at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Jndi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funun. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Khamasini weather to clear

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Tuesday said Khamasini conditions are expected to clear Wednesday with cooler temperatures. A department spokesman said Jordan will continue to be affected by a cold depression centred over parts of the Kingdom and Syria and scattered showers were expected during the day with cloudy to partly cloudy skies and temperatures in Amman reaching a high of 17°C. On Thursday clear skies are expected, with a rise in temperatures up to 20°C in the Amman area, said the spokesman. Earlier Tuesday the Public Security Department (PSD) said that sandstorms were reported in the desert regions of the south and east, particularly on the highway towards Rweished, noting that the storms had caused poor visibility.

Under the Patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Health

On the Occasion of the Integration of Hepatitis B Vaccine in the National EPI

A SYMPOSIUM

"TOWARDS THE CONTROL OF HEPATITIS B INFECTION IN JORDAN"

Sponsored by:

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In association with:

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF LIVER DISEASE PATIENTS OF JORDAN

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Date: Thursday, April 20th 1995

Place: University of Jordan, Faculty of Engineering - Main Auditorium

The following topics will be presented:

1. PREVENTIVE EFFORTS BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH	6. PROSPECTS FOR THE GLOBAL ERADICATION OF HEPATITIS B
2. VIRAL HEPATITIS	7. IMPACT AND CONTROL OF HEPATITIS B IN JORDAN
3. LONG-TERM SEQUELAE OF VIRAL HEPATITIS	8. HB VACCINATION IN THE EPISCHEDULE OF JORDAN
4. MANAGEMENT OF THE HEPATITIS B CARRIER	9. PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN HEPATITIS B VACCINATION
5. BLOOD BANK SCREENING FOR HEPATITIS VIRUSES	

Rwandan troops search camp for displaced; 100,000 flee

KIBEHO, Rwanda (Agencies) — Rwandan troops searched a camp for the displaced in southwest Rwanda Tuesday, prompting an estimated 100,000 people to flee their huts, witnesses said.

U.N. officials said heavily-armed troops were apparently engaged in an intense "cordon and search" operation of Kibeho camp but there were no immediate reports of any casualties.

A Reuters correspondent who flew over the camp in a U.N. helicopter said he saw one in every five huts in Kibeho either destroyed by fire or smashed to pieces and plastic sheeting was knocked off their roofs.

He said the camp covered five hillsides and four of them were deserted while a sea of displaced people were fleeing with their meagre belongings up the central hill towards sanctuary in a church.

The Rwandan government has been pressing since last year for the closure of camps for internally displaced people in the southwest, arguing that they should return to

their homes. The hundreds of thousands of displaced within Rwanda and the estimated two million refugees abroad are members of the Hutu majority who fled during genocide and three months of civil war last year.

Meanwhile, twenty-three of Rwanda's state secondary schools, out of a total of 112 before last year's genocidal civil war, reopened their doors to pupils Tuesday morning, the education minister announced.

The minister, Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema, said in a radio broadcast that the aim was to open 80 schools by the end of the year. The others were too badly damaged during the carnage between last April and July.

Classes in mathematics, physics and biochemistry, as well as training for nurses, resumed Tuesday, with language lessons to start up again shortly, the minister added.

Many teachers died or fled and Rwanda's infrastructure was shattered during the war

won by the minority Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) after Hutu extremist militias and troops of the former government army massacred more than 500,000 Tutsis and opposition Hutus.

Speaking in Kinyarwanda, the national language, Mr. Rwigyema said the costs of teaching the thousands of children orphaned in the war would be handled by the government, which also planned to pay the salaries of teachers in private schools.

He did not say how many private schools were functioning.

Primary school classes resumed seven months ago and in March some 65,000 pupils were able to sit examinations to move on to secondary education. The university began operating again on April 2.

Exiled Rwandans said Tuesday they had formed political party to push for the return of some two million refugees who fled Rwanda.

In a statement obtained by Reuters, the Rally for the Return and Democracy in

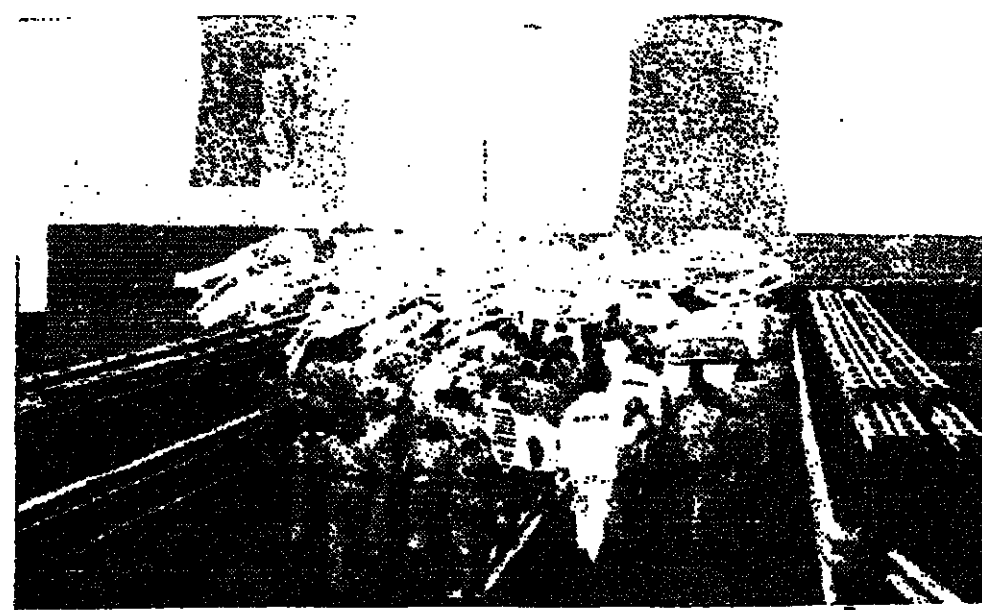
Rwanda (RDR) said it was formed on April 3 in Mugunga Refugee Camp near the eastern Zairean town of Goma.

It said it would do all it could to ensure the return of the refugees, members of Rwanda's Hutu majority who fled a year ago in fear of being killed in revenge for the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by troops and militias.

"The RDR has the following objectives: To do everything possible for the return of refugees, and to represent and defend the interest of Rwandan refugees as well as Rwandans excluded from the governance of the country," the statement said.

It said the party was set up due to a "consistent refusal by the Kigali government of any attempt towards negotiations for a quick and peaceful return of millions of refugees."

Kigali has repeatedly refused to negotiate with what it says are former officials in exile who helped organise and carry out the genocide.



Anti-nuclear protestors representing Greenpeace at Sellafield where they breached security at the nuclear processing plant and blocked the main road to the site (AFP photo)

Greenpeace breaches security at U.K. plutonium-making nuclear complex

LONDON (AP) — Greenpeace protesters broke into Britain's biggest nuclear power complex to highlight its production of plutonium, a key ingredient of nuclear weapons.

The protests were timed to coincide with the start of a conference in New York to extend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the

spread of nuclear weapons. Over 100 demonstrators breached security barriers at the Sellafield Nuclear Complex on the English coast 210 miles (340 kilometres) northwest of London, and blocked the main road to the plant.

Cumbria Police said Monday night that 61 protesters were arrested. They came from Britain and a host of other countries including South Korea, Ireland, Germany, Italy and France,

police said. Eight were charged with obstructing police or obstructing the highway and released on bail. The others were being processed.

Greenpeace claimed Monday night that five demonstrators were still hidden in the 1.25-square-mile (3.2-square-kilometre) Sellafield Complex. But Cumbria Police said no demonstrators remained inside or outside the Sellafield site.

Support growing for end to Ireland divorce ban

DUBLIN (AP) — A majority of people in this predominantly Roman Catholic country want an end to Ireland's blanket ban on divorce, a newspaper poll showed Monday. The Irish Marketing Surveys Group poll of 1,057 people at 75 locations in Ireland last Wednesday showed support for divorce reform was highest among people aged 25 to 34. More than 60 per cent of those questioned backed moves to reform the divorce laws, a rise of 4 per cent since a similar national poll last November. About 31 per cent were opposed to change, down 3 per cent, according to the survey published in the Irish Independent newspaper. The survey had a margin of error of 3 per cent. Irish law bans divorce and remarriage, but the 1991 census revealed 67,000 people legally separated in this land of 3.5 million. The three-party coalition government of Prime Minister John Bruton says it will back a public referendum late this year or early next year to allow divorce. A similar referendum in 1986 was defeated by a substantial majority.

Bishops attack British film about gay priest

PARIS (R) — A new British film featuring a gay priest is painful to Catholics and treats audiences like voyeurs, the head of the French Bishops' Conference said in a letter published Tuesday. Monsignor Joseph Duval, in a letter sent to French bishops Monday and printed by the daily Le Figaro, highlighted "recent media events which have been a source of suffering for many Catholics in this country." He criticised the "complacent" release of the film Priest, directed by Antonia Bird, in the middle of Easter holy week. "Saying that celibacy is difficult is self-evident. Who wouldn't believe that there are some failures?" Bishop Duval wrote. "But betting on the commercial success of a film on this question means treating the audience like voyeurs." Father Jean-Michel Di Falco, secretary and spokesman of the Bishops' Conference, had Monday branded the timing of the release a provocation. The film stars Linus Roache as a priest who comes unstuck over his affair with a lover he picked up at a gay club. He gets arrested for indecency in a car, is sacked by his superiors and pilloried by parishioners. A fellow priest in the film has fewer qualms over breaking his celibacy vow and lives with his housekeeper. The Roman Catholic Church condemns homosexual relationships as unnatural. All its clergymen are meant to be celibate.

Kim Basinger is pregnant

NEW YORK (AP) — Kim Basinger, star of the film 1-2-3, now is working on a nine-month production. The 41-year-old actress and wife of actor Alec Baldwin is expecting a baby in November, her publicist, Robert Garlock, said Monday. Basinger, who starred in such hits as Batman and the recent Ready To Wear, was working on a new Robert Altman movie, Kansas City, when she learned she was pregnant. She withdrew from the movie because the film's insurer didn't want to be liable for the risks to her pregnancy, Mr. Garlock said. He said Basinger was feeling great, and well enough to continue to work. Altman asked Basinger to name the baby Robert, or Roberta if it's a girl, the spokesman said.

Undertakers refuse burial of HIV-infected drug addict

SALONIKA, Greece (AP) — Undertakers in this northern Greek port city have refused to bury drug addict who was HIV-positive, his wife said. "Four funeral homes contacted in Salonika refused to take care of him, they even refused to help me dress him," Fotini Ossas, 26, said referring to her 31-year-old husband Costas who died Saturday of a drug overdose. Costas Ossas' father finally carried the body wrapped in a blanket to his home town near Drama, east of here, where he was buried Sunday.

Experts get 1st look at holed French ferry

ST HELIER, Jersey (R) — Marine experts Tuesday began an investigation after a French catamaran crashed into a rock off the coast of Jersey, forcing 300 passengers to jump for their lives into choppy seas.

Low tides overnight revealed a large jagged gash about 2.4 metres (eight feet) long in the portside hull of the Saint Malo, which was towed into a sandy bay. Investigators planned to interview the French captain and crew of the ferry later Tuesday.

Terrified passengers reported hearing the boat judder against rocks shortly after leaving Jersey in the British-owned Channel Islands on a trip to the nearby island of Sark Monday.

Thirty passengers spent the night in hospital with broken limbs after the scramble into lifeboats when water poured into the hull of the ferry. One man was in intensive care and another 35 were

treated for bruising and shock, police said. A French doctor who treated some of the wounded taken aboard another ferry said disaster was narrowly averted.

"There were no ladders on the Saint Malo and people had to throw themselves on top of each other in the lifeboats. It's a miracle there were no dead," Pierre Heinrich told reporters.

Some of the 165 German, 40 French and 75 British passengers told of chaos when the boat tipped heavily to one side in waves up to 1.2 metres high.

"We had to jump 15 feet (4.5 metres) for safety into the lifeboats... I saw people break their bones in the fall. Some of them went straight into the sea," said German Karl Gottschalk.

"There was a loud bang and then we felt a judder. The boat went over on one side. It listed badly. Water

came up above the window level. It was terrifying," said Mary Gavin.

Some of the passengers returned to the French port of St. Malo Monday evening but most remained in Jersey overnight.

Eyewitnesses said the Saint Malo appeared to have taken a short cut through a passage near the Corbiere Lighthouse which is passable at high tide. It saves about five minutes on the hour-long journey to Sark.

French authorities are carrying out their own investigation alongside that of the Jersey Harbour Office.

Frederic Avierinos, chairman of the catamaran's owners Channiland, said the Saint Malo was three years old.

"It was absolutely up to regulation standards and no technical problem can explain what happened," he told a news conference.



'MESSIAH.' An Israeli policeman drags off Jewish woman Simcha Duden who provoked uproar at the western wall in Jerusalem on Tuesday by claiming to be the Messiah. She

8 killed in air force jet crashes in U.S.

ALEXANDER CITY, Alabama (AP) — An air force jet exploded and crashed Monday in a wooded area while trying to land at the airport in this eastern Alabama town. All eight people on board were killed, including the assistant secretary of the Air Force.

The plane was trying to make an unplanned landing at the Alexander City Airport when it crashed near a group of houses four miles (6.5 kilometres) from Alexander City, said Lt. Frances Sconi, a spokeswoman for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

The passengers included Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Clark Fiester and his assistant, Col. Jack Clark, said and air force spokeswoman, Maj. Alvina Mitchell.

The rest of the passengers were air force personnel and one army member who was flying on a "space available" basis, Maj. Mitchell said. Their names were not released pending notification of their families.

A witness said he could see the pilot struggling with the plane. Jimmy Keel said he watched the plane fly just above the tree line as he sat on the porch of his bait and tackle shop.

"It was coming a straight line for my store. I could see the pilot fighting the plane," Mr. Keel said. "he was in trouble. He fought it up, it went left, then right, then it exploded."

Another witness said she too heard the plane explode before it crashed.

The plane had been en route to Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, said Lt. Col. Johnny Whitaker, a spokesman for Randolph.

The plane was carrying evidence that was actually picked up by an assistant, why he didn't wear latex gloves at the crime scene and why they should not believe a defence allegation that he handled a bloody envelope with bare hands.

Much of Mr. Fung's re-direct testimony focused on a vial of Simpson's blood that the defence has used as a key point in the frame-up theory. Although Mr. Fung said he still could not remember exactly what he did with the vial, a second-by-second view of the new tape showed him apparently holding a gray envelope that a detective has said contained the blood sample.

Shortly after Mr. Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were slain on June 12, news crews swarmed around the crime scene and the former football star's estate, documenting the comings and goings of police.

In the few frames, taken from afar with a telephoto lens, Mr. Fung was seen standing in the foyer of Mr. Simpson's home with Vannatter and another police employee.

Brando's daughter commits suicide

PAPEETE, French Polynesia (Agencies) — Actor Marlon Brando's daughter Cheyenne hanged herself at her home on the South Pacific island of Tahiti in French Polynesia Sunday, her family said Monday.

Relatives said Cheyenne Brando, 25, had been depressed since the murder of her boyfriend Dag Drollet by her half-brother Christian four years ago, and had made three previous suicide attempts.

She was found hanging in her bedroom at her home in Punaania, on the west coast of Tahiti, on Easter Sunday afternoon, a relative said.

The relatives said Marlon Brando, 71, had been taken to a hospital in Los Angeles after hearing the news. Cheyenne, born to a Tahitian mother, would be buried Tuesday at FAANA on the island, they said.

Christian Brando was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for the murder of Drollet but could be paroled within the next two to three weeks for good behaviour, they said.

During his trial the court was told that before the killing of Drollet, Cheyenne, then four months pregnant, had complained of having been beaten by her lover.

Charges against Cheyenne for complicity in the murder were dropped in 1993 after lengthy legal wrangling.

Her lawyer Jacques Verges — a colourful French advocate who has also represented Carlos the Jackal and Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie — said the life of the severely depressed Cheyenne was put in danger by the proceedings against her.

During his son's trial, Brando broke a long public silence, telling reporters and photographers he had become a recluse to preserve his sanity.

"This (Hollywood) is a false world, and it's been a struggle to try to preserve your sanity in a world that has been taken away from you," he said at the time.

More recently, he returned to the screen with a role in the comedy The Freshman as well as an acclaimed performance as a psychiatrist in the current romantic comedy Don Juan De Marco.

Las Vegas, he also published his autobiography and appeared in a long and rambling live interview with Larry King on the Cable News Network.

Considered one of the great actors of the century, Brando's performances in A Streetcar Named Desire (1951), The Wild One (1953) and On The Waterfront (1954) were acclaimed as classics and, more than anything else, established the naturalistic method school of acting.

Brando won an Academy Award for On The Waterfront and another for playing a gangster in The Godfather (1972). But much of his later career was an anti-climax and his family life was full of turmoil.

Critics both hailed and panned his performances in later movies, such as Last Tango in Paris (1972) and Apocalypse Now (1979), mirroring the ambivalence the entertainment industry had always felt about him.

Cheyenne was born Feb. 23, 1970 to Marlon Brando and Tarita, a young, ravishing Polynesian beauty who was featured in a Brando remake of Mutiny On The Bounty.

She leaves behind a six-year-old son, Taki, whose father is Drollet.



File photo dated June 9, 1992 of Cheyenne Brando, daughter of U.S. actor Marlon Brando, who is reported to have hanged herself at her home at Punaania, 10 km from Papeete. She had made two previous suicide bids in earlier years following the killing of her boyfriend Dag Drollet by her half-brother, Christian, in 1990 (AFP photo)

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Simpson prosecution works to build up Fung's credibility as 12th week starts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The prosecution in the O.J. Simpson murder trial introduced new videotape that appears to show a police technician holding evidence the defence claims he did not have until the following day.

Deputy District Attorney Hank Goldberg used the clip Monday to try and bolster the weakened credibility of criminalist Dennis Fung and hurt the defence theory of a police conspiracy to frame Simpson, the former football star, for the murder of his ex-wife and her male friend.

Mr. Goldberg's low-key counterpunches came after Superior Court Judge Lance Ito told jurors he would start interviewing them one by one in his chambers, about three or four a day, to ask about allegations of racial divisions and personal animosity lodged by an ousted juror.

Just as the interviews were about to begin, however, Judge Ito put them off to consider a defence request to have Simpson attend. Last week, Judge Ito said Simpson could not be there, but the defence presented the judge with court cases supporting its position that the defendant should be allowed to hear the interviews.

Simpson faces life in prison if convicted of the killings. The judge also directed Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden to give the defence 15 or 16 audiotapes made by author Marc Elliott as he interviewed former Simpson houseguest Brian Kato Kaelin. In addition, Mr. Darden gave the defence a still-unsigned contract between Mr. Kaelin and Mr. Elliott.

Before testimony began, defence attorney Robert Shapiro apologized to Mr. Fung and Asian-Americans for facetious remarks he made about Mr. Fung last Thursday while handing out Chinese fortune cookies.

"My heart has been heavy all weekend if even one person has been offended, and for that I sincerely apologize," Mr. Shapiro said.

Attention then turned to Mr. Fung, who spent most of his eighth day on the stand under redirect examination. With about 30 minutes to go, defence attorney Barry Scheck began his re-examination, which was to continue Tuesday.

Under questioning by Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Fung explained to jurors why he told a grand jury he collected

evidence that was actually picked up by an assistant, why he didn't wear latex gloves at the crime scene and why they should not believe a defence allegation that he handled a bloody envelope with bare hands.

Much of Mr. Fung's re-direct testimony focused on a vial of Simpson's blood that the defence has used as a key point in the frame-up theory. Although Mr. Fung said he still could not remember exactly what he did with the vial, a second-by-second view of the new tape showed him apparently holding a gray envelope that a detective has said contained the blood sample.

Shortly after Mr. Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were slain on June 12, news crews swarmed around the crime scene and the former football star's estate, documenting the comings and goings of police.

In the few frames, taken from afar with a telephoto lens, Mr. Fung was seen standing in the foyer of Mr. Simpson's home with Vannatter and another police employee.

Vietnam minister: Ball is in Clinton's court

HANOI (R) — Vietnam wants normal relations with the United States and a decision on the issue is up to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Hanoi's minister in charge of ties with Washington said Tuesday.

"We are ready, because it's good for both countries and for the region," Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai told Reuters.

"I think there is growing interest in the United States over relations with Vietnam," he said. "Actually there is no political difference either."

"But it is up to the president of the United States to decide," Mr. Mai said in an interview ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Communist victory in the Vietnam War on April 30.

When Saigon, capital of U.S.-backed South Vietnam, fell to Communist forces, he was in the central city of Hue and drank champagne with an American friend, a professor, to celebrate.

Mr. Mai, 54, has helped guide Hanoi's U.S. policy since the early 1970s peace talks in Paris, where he was a junior negotiator, and is its chief point-man on the question now that ties are finally improving.

He remembers U.S. chief negotiator Henry Kissinger and other U.S. wartime figures, but respects only those Americans who opposed the war — a number which included Mr. Clinton.

"I think the president should have nothing to be sorry about the fact that he refused to fight in that war," he said.

Mr. Mai said former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara was realistic in admitting in a new book he believed the United States should have withdrawn from Vietnam as early as 1963.

"What Mr. McNamara said, that he felt the U.S. was terribly, terribly wrong. I think that is something in conformity with reality," Mr.

Mai said. "I think that if Mr. McNamara fought the wrong war in the battlefields of Vietnam, then Mr. Henry Kissinger defended the wrong cause at the negotiations," he said.

Relations with the United States were improving rapidly in all fields, and U.S. investment had grown to \$280 million from \$20 million since Mr. Clinton lifted a U.S. economic embargo against Hanoi in February, 1994, he said.

"I think the prospects are quite bright," he said, "because the American companies, although they come late, they have expertise, they have capital, and I think strong competitiveness."

"The experience of the last year since the lifting of the embargo has shown that there's quite a prospect for U.S. investment," Mr. Mai said, citing agriculture, construction, oil and gas, aviation and transport as key industries for U.S. investors.

Mr. Mai said diplomatic relations was not a prerequisite for most favoured nation (MFN) trading status, which Vietnam needs to sell more goods in the United States.

Vietnam would continue to cooperate with the United States in its efforts to account for more than 2,000 servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in Indochina, Mr. Mai said.

He rejected charges by American activists that Hanoi was still holding U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) and said this was not an issue between the two governments.

"I think that suspicion has been buried now because of hundreds of investigations conducted jointly by the American and Vietnamese MIA experts," he said. "They found nothing, no evidence whatsoever..."

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Sarajevo suburb hit by Serb shelling

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces mortared a supply route west of Sarajevo and shelled a suburb of the city Monday evening, Bosnian government radio and a United Nations spokesman said Tuesday.

U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said Bosnian Serbs had targeted the supply route on Mount Igman, west of the city, with five mortar bombs along with small arms and heavy-machinegun fire.

Bosnian government radio said the nearby Sarajevo suburb of Hrasnica was mortared by Serbs and the United Nations confirmed more than 20 detonations in the town.

The U.N. said six detonations were recorded in Serb-held areas flanking Hrasnica, suggesting an exchange of fire between Muslim-led government forces and separatist Bosnian Serbs who surround Sarajevo.

The Bosnian capital is supposed to be a U.N.-protected "safe area" from which heavy weapons are banned. The United Nations has been relying on negotiation rather than force to police the safe area and weapons ban.

Three shells slammed into government-held Tuzla town, another "safe area" in north-east Bosnia, Tuesday morning, a local source said. The shells hit the walls of a school but there were no casualties reported.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Tuesday condemned a decision by a Bosnian Serb liaison officer to prevent the U.S. ambassador here from boarding a U.N. flight Monday out of besieged Sarajevo.

Ambassador Victor Jackovich, who was leaving at the end of his term here, had to go instead by road.

A Bosnian Serb liaison officer at the airport told UNPROFOR he could not guarantee the safety of the

plane if "civilians" were to board, UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said here.

Mr. Jackovich was seen here as a firm supporter of the Bosnian government.

UNPROFOR regrets what happened" and has issued both verbal and written protests to the Serbs over the issue," Col. Coward said.

UNPROFOR resumed flying into besieged Sarajevo on a limited scale Sunday, a week after Bosnian Serbs fired at a C-130 transport plane bringing in emergency aid.

But, with the exception of French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, who flew in over the weekend in the wake of the killing of two soldiers from the French contingent here, UNPROFOR has refused to transport any civilian passengers.

UNPROFOR was "well aware of the disquiet of Bosnian Serbs" concerning the flying by the United Nations of Bosnian civilians and government officials, including objections raised by Serb commander-in-chief General Ratko Mladic, Col. Coward had explained Monday.

Col. Coward said however that a number of civilian UNPROFOR employees were scheduled to fly out of town Tuesday afternoon as the United Nations continued to "gradually test the water."

The airport is under U.N. control, but surrounded on all sides by government and Serb lines.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed anger Tuesday over the Serb refusal to let the U.S. ambassador to Bosnia fly out of Sarajevo and said he would have "something to say" to the United Nations about it.

Mr. Christopher told reporters the Serb action was "unjustified and outrageous."

In Zagreb, United Nations



Muslim-Croat woman Ana Mandic (centre) is comforted by her son as she attends the funeral of her killed husband Franjo. Franjo Mandic died two days ago after suffering injuries last week from sniper-fire in the centre of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

special envoy to former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, Tuesday met U.N. Bosnia commander General Rupert Smith at Split, in southern Croatia, ahead of talks in Sarajevo with Bosnia's warring parties, U.N. officials said here.

The talks were "preparations for discussions" due at the end of the week in Sarajevo and Pale, the stronghold of the separatist Bosnian Serbs, U.N. spokesman Christopher Gunnes said.

The talks were taking place at a British base at Divulje close to Split Airport. There was no immediate information on their outcome.

Meanwhile, Bosnia's prime minister said Tuesday any withdrawal of French peacekeepers would reward those who killed two French soldiers in Sarajevo at the weekend.

"A French withdrawal would be most unfortunate because it would be rewarding the killers and giving them exactly what they wanted," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told Reuters.

Bosnia becomes election issue as Balladur threatens pullout

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Tuesday threatened to pull French peacekeepers out of Bosnia as the war there suddenly became an issue in France's presidential election campaign.

The sniper killings of two French soldiers in Sarajevo Friday and Saturday caused outrage in France, but could also provide a much-needed boost for Mr. Balladur's flagging campaign.

The prime minister, who is trailing in third place behind the favourite, fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac, and Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin, benefited from the limelight as his rivals tried but failed to outbid him.

With the backing of outgoing Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Balladur set tough conditions for France's 4,500 troops to stay on in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Balladur had rushed to call an emergency meeting here with Foreign and Defence Ministers Alain Juppe and Francois Leotard, following the sniper killings. Aides of President Francois Mitterrand also attended the 45-minute meeting.

If his conditions were not met, Paris "would have to decide on the withdrawal of the French soldiers in Bosnia," Mr. Balladur said, at the same time announcing a flurry of diplomatic moves.

Only one candidate, far rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen, has called for outright withdrawal of the French forces, saying it was "an aberration and criminal to throw men into such a confused scrum."

Mr. Chirac, for his part,

said he favoured serving the warring sides with an ultimatum and, if that failed, considering air strikes, while Mr. Jospin had difficulty in taking a different line from the prime minister, calling for "greater firmness" in face of the Serbs.

Mr. Balladur Tuesday called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to take measures to protect U.N. forces and asked Mr. Juppe, who later left for New York to attend a nuclear non-proliferation conference, to meet U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and hold talks with other contributor countries to the U.N. force.

The prime minister also called for an early meeting at ministerial level of the five-nation contact group on Bosnia — comprising France, Britain, Germany, Russia and the United States.

And he demanded that Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims resume their negotiations.

The prime minister set three tough conditions for keeping troops in former Yugoslavia, including "respect of and renewal of the ceasefire between the parties."

The four-month ceasefire, which has been increasingly violated, is due to expire at the end of April.

Mr. Balladur said the other conditions were a "resumption of negotiations" and "freedom of action and movement and the strengthening of the security of UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force)."

Earlier, the prime minister had said of Bosnia: "We can-

not stay there forever if conditions for peace are not forthcoming and they don't want us any more."

"What does that mean? It means if life is impossible, if our soldiers are being shot at, which is happening now, if arms deliveries begin again and war restarts," the prime minister said.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Tuesday he hoped France would not withdraw its troops.

"I very well understand that the French are considering a withdrawal," Mr. Kinkel said in an interview with German radio. "But I hope they won't make such a decision."

"I think that in any case they won't act without consulting with the other countries that have deployed troops in ex-Yugoslavia," Mr. Kinkel said.

Mr. Chirac snubbed questions from the French Human Rights League on his attitude towards Algerian refugees entering France, the League said Tuesday.

Mr. Chirac was one of two candidates in Sunday's presidential poll who declined to answer the League's questionnaire. The other was ultra-right Philippe De Villiers.

The other candidates' answers will be published Wednesday in a special edition of the League's magazine.

The only unambiguous replies came from extreme-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen and Green candidate Dominique Voynet.

Mr. Le Pen said "no Alger-

ian should be allowed to enter France," while Mr. Voynet urged "provisional asylum status" for Algerian refugees.

Mr. Balladur favoured an atmosphere of "dialogue...with societies founded on the Islamic religion," while Socialist Party candidate Lionel Jospin said he was prepared to "help everyone in Algeria who wants peace."

Mr. Balladur stepped up a dispute with Mr. Chirac over policy surrounding the franc Tuesday, accusing him of "irresponsibility" which could harm growth.

In London, the franc fell by almost two centimes to 3.5125 to the mark early Tuesday as dealers reacted to a hard-hitting attack by Mr. Chirac before the long Easter weekend on the governor of the Bank of France.

The governor, Jean-Claude Trichet, had warned against pressure from Mr. Chirac and Mr. Jospin to allow wages to rise.

But Mr. Chirac replied that the Bank of France should not dictate economic policy to the government and that higher wages would help foster a recovery.

On another key issue concerning current tight spending policies, Mr. Balladur said Tuesday that "French funding deficits would have to be cut by 1997, but they gave widely different figures."

Mr. Balladur told the Wednesday edition of the newspaper Le Monde that Mr. Chirac's "demagoguery" would harm "refound growth."

Chechens reportedly repulse Russians at Bamut

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chechen military commanders said their forces had repulsed a second Russian assault on the village of Bamut in western Chechnya Tuesday.

But a spokesman at the Russian Interior Ministry, whose troops are attempting to seize the village, told AFP there had been "no attack on Bamut during the night, only localised firefights."

The rebels' press office, Chechen Press, said the Russians lost "48 armoured cars and at least 20 tanks and many men in the attack."

Chechen separatists frequently exaggerate Russian losses.

The guerrillas are holed up in a disused Soviet nuclear missile base in Bamut, the last major point of anti-Russian resistance in the lowlands of Chechnya, a tiny Muslim republic in the south of the Russian Federation.

Chechen Press said in a statement sent to AFP that Russian forces opened artillery fire on Bamut at 10:00 p.m. (1900 GMT) and continued for three hours, before beginning a ground attack.

As many as 4,000 Russian soldiers took part in the attempt to storm Bamut, then withdrew at 5:00 a.m. (0200 GMT), Interfax News Agency said, quoting Chechen commanders.

Russian planes and helicopters attacked after the ground troops pulled back, the Chechens said.

Separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev and his military commander Aslan Maskhadov visited the guerrillas in Bamut Monday and led shortly before the shelling started, Chechen Press said.

On Sunday, Russian forces called off an assault on Bamut, 50 kilometres southwest of Grozny, due to intense resistance, but said they would launch another attack.

Russian soldiers, who entered Chechnya on Dec. 11 to crush Mr. Dudayev's independence drive, control all the major towns in the republic and the guerrillas only operate freely in the mountains.

However, minor clashes take place daily in the major towns already captured by the Russians.

Earlier Tuesday, Russian officials said two of their soldiers were killed and five wounded when their armoured personnel carrier hit a mine in western Chechnya, about 10 kilometres north of Bamut.

And Chechen fighters opened fire on two checkpoints in Grozny, which has been in Russian hands since mid-February, Monday, Interfax said.

Bamut has been under attack by vastly superior Russian forces for three months.

After the failed attempt to storm Bamut Sunday, Russian officials said they were waiting for a mediation attempt by village elders before launching another attack.

Military operations were suspended because village elders said they would try to persuade the Chechen fighters to abandon their struggle, said a Russian government spokesman, quoted by Interfax News Agency.

Interfax said Monday that a "conference of representatives of the Chechen people" was due to take place Friday.

But neither side seems likely to negotiate.

The Chechen sources cited by Interfax Tuesday said the elders were making no effort to intervene because after the alleged Russian massacres in the nearby village of Samashki a week ago, the Russian side could not be trusted.

And despite their statements that military operations were being suspended, Russian forces near Bamut fired artillery shells into the woods around the village to prevent about 400 Chechen fighters from reinforcing the village Monday, Interfax said.

Meanwhile Russian Fore-

ign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Tuesday that Moscow could not rule out the use of force to protect the rights of ethnic Russians living in former Soviet republics, Interfax reported.

"There may be cases when the use of direct military force will be needed to defend our compatriots abroad," the agency quoted him as telling a conference in Moscow.

More than 20 million ethnic Russians live in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) grouping all other ex-Soviet republics.

"The plight of Russian-speakers in many CIS states is still unsatisfactory," Mr. Kozyrev said, adding there was a wide range of other means to protect Russians abroad including diplomatic, political and economic pressure.

Moscow has accused several states of discriminating against ethnic Russians. The latest hot issue is the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea, where Russians make up the majority of the population.

Mr. Kozyrev sought to play down differences between Moscow and Kiev, but told Ukraine to respect the will of the Crimean population.

Singapore accepts Philippine autopsy guidelines

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore said Tuesday it accepted in principle a joint autopsy draft guidelines for the remains of one of the victims in the case of hanged Filipino maid Flor Contemplacion.

Singapore forensic scientists are expected in Manila Wednesday to join Filipino colleagues in an autopsy of the remains of Delia Maga, one of two people Singapore found Contemplacion guilty of killing in 1991.

Singapore has "accepted in principle the draft guidelines proposed by the Philippine government," a Singapore

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said in a written statement, responding to queries about the coming investigation.

Singapore's decision to hang Contemplacion last month for murder has led to a diplomatic rift between the city state and the Philippines.

In the latest and most prominent casualty, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo resigned Monday in hopes it would help to calm the furor over the case.

Many Filipinos believe Contemplacion is innocent,

despite her confession to the crimes.

One of the autopsy guidelines states that the experts will conduct their joint efforts "in a confidential manner and will not issue any public statements while their examinations in Manila are in progress," the Singapore statement said.

It also said each team will designate one spokesman at the end of the examinations and before the Singaporeans depart.

It added: "The spokesman will coordinate their respec-

tive written statements prior to reading their statements before a press conference. The timing and venue of the press conference will be mutually agreed upon."

Singapore's spokesman will be assisted by foreign consultants when answering questions from the media, the ministry spokesman said in the statement.

Singapore has requested that the autopsy location be "private and free from media and other intrusion so that the work could be carried out without distraction and in the most professional manner," the ministry statement said.

Irish moderate tells London to start talks

BELFAST (R) — Moderate nationalist leader John Hume angrily criticised Britain Tuesday for refusing talks with Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, on cementing the eight-month-old peace process in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Hume, who won international acclaim for helping to broker the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) cessation of violence last September, had a blunt message for Britain: "If you are a government, then get the dialogue going."

His comments were the latest in a growing clamour from nationalist leaders on both sides of the Irish border for Britain to drop objections to ministerial talks with Sinn Fein and advance a fragile peace momentum boosted by IRA and rival pro-British Protestant guerrilla ceasefire last year.

A member of both the British and European parliaments, Mr. Hume said Britain's refusal was delaying efforts to get lasting agree-

ment on Northern Ireland's problems.

"The people of our part of the world have suffered terribly," he said in a BBC Radio interview.

"They have suffered far too much for the last 25 years. It's the duty of everyone to do everything in their power to make sure that there is no repetition of that."

The leader of Northern Ireland's biggest pro-Irish Catholic group, the Social

Democratic and Labour Party, Mr. Hume is highly respected on both sides of the Atlantic as a key figure in attempts to end decades of conflict in the British province.

He held prolonged talks with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams two years ago which are seen as having influenced British and Irish government policy on Northern Ireland and paved the way for the IRA's decision to call off its war against London rule.

Japan targets sect in murder plot with sarin gas

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese cabinet passed a bill Tuesday banning sarin nerve gas, while police sought to question the leader of the Aum Supreme Truth cult about reports he oversaw production of the gas, which killed 12 people in last month's Tokyo subway attack.

Under the new legislation, the first of its kind in Japan, the production, import or possession of the nerve gas sarin will be punishable with imprisonment of between two years and life, officials said.

"As soon as the bill is passed by parliament, we want to announce it publicly," Home Affairs Minister Tomuro Nonaka told reporters, indicating the law could be in place as early as May 1.

Police found reports from the Aum sect showing that the leader, Shoko Asahara, 40, the leader of the doomsday cult, had ordered members to produce sarin last summer, Tokyo Broadcasting System Corp. said late Monday.

Asahara told a chief of Asahara's chemical bureau to be careful while producing sarin because it is very dangerous," according to the

reports obtained by the television network.

Asahara attended experiments on producing sarin and instructed members to submit all the reports and records on its production to him, the television report said. It said police wanted to question Asahara about the production of sarin.

The sect has repeatedly denied involvement in the subway attack and also denied having made sarin.

Police obtained an arrest warrant Tuesday for a central figure in a secret "action squad" of the Aum as part of sweeping arrests of sect members, Kyodo News Agency said.

Police will soon put Yoshihiro Inoue, 25, on the suspect list for using a false name when he set up a company affiliated with the sect, the Japanese news agency said.

The nerve gas, invented by the Nazis, killed 12 people and injured 5,500 others in the March 20 attack, and is also responsible for the deaths of seven people in the central Japanese city of Matsumoto last year.

Japanese police reportedly confirmed the cult had been producing the gas at its com-

mune in central Japan, and have arrested more than 100 followers, including four senior members.

The radical sect, established in 1987 by the half-blind former acupuncturist, had planned to purchase various kinds of arms besides the lethal nerve gas, local newspapers said, quoting police sources.

The cult bought a fighter helicopter and parts of Russian machineguns, while it attempted to develop laser beam weapons. Police also discovered papers indicating Aum wanted to purchase a nuclear warhead, tanks and submarines, news reports said.

Almost a month after the subway attack, many victims are still suffering psychological problems caused by the deadly incident, doctors said.

At least seven sarin victims are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), doctors at St. Luke International Hospital told Yomiuri Shimbun.

One of the most serious cases is that of a 24-year-old woman who was hit by both tragedies in Japan this year — the nerve gas attack and the devastating Jan. 17 earth-

quake in western Japan.

The woman, who had lived in the western city of Osaka, lost her job in the aftermath of the quake. She later found a position in Tokyo but fell victim to the subway attack only 10 days after she started her new job.

Although the gas poisoning she suffered was relatively light, she started having "flashbacks" of the incident. She also complained that everybody around her looked like suspects.

Meanwhile, a Russian court Tuesday ordered the Russian branch of the Aum Supreme Truth cult to pay damages of \$4 million to a youth welfare committee, which began the legal action on behalf of victims of Aum.

The Moscow tribunal, in which the civil action opened eight months ago, also outlawed registrations of the Russian and Muscovite branches of the sect, which effectively outlawed all its activities in Russia.

The tribunal had already suspended last July the Russian activities of Aum Shinri Kyo, and frozen its assets in the absence of necessary documentation.

Moscow rushes to prepare for Victory Day bash

MOSCOW (AP) — On the windy hill where Napoleon once waited for the keys to Moscow, an army of workers is rushing to finish a park.

Celebrating Russia's victory over another invader from the west: Nazi Germany.

With bricks, brooms and welding torches, construction crews Monday were preparing for perhaps the biggest bash Moscow has been in a hundred years.

More than 50 world leaders plan to attend the 50th anniversary of Victory Day on May 9, and Moscow has mobilised its forces to turn the capital's moonscape of mud and grime into a gleaming showcase of the new Russia.

Workers are pruning trees, scrubbing statues and painting anything that stands still. Striped lane markers have reappeared on a number of Moscow roads, although most drivers pretend they haven't. Even the capital's Soviet hammer-and-sickle monuments are getting the once-over. The only things missing are green grass and leaves on the trees, but spring is rumoured to be on the way.

"The last time Moscow saw something like this was in 1896 for the coronation of Nicholas II," the daily Izvestia said recently.

Moscow thought it would play host to the world during the 1980 Olympics, but its

cleanup campaign meant little after the United States led a boycott to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

This year, the fighting in Chechnya made President Bill Clinton and other leaders reluctant to come to Moscow to honour the Russian military machine. President Boris Yeltsin finally agreed to organise two parades: one, for the foreign guests, will feature veterans on Red Square; the other will send tanks and other military hardware past the new memorial park being built in western Moscow.

At the moment, the park at Poklannaya Gora is a chaotic construction site swarming with hundreds of carpenters, bricklayers, welders and soldiers. A new gold-domed cathedral and towering obelisk have shot up with breathtaking speed, especially considering that the project first began under the Communists in 1983. The Soviet politburo halted construction in 1987 after public protests over its design. There was little money or enthusiasm for the memorial until Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov took office in 1992.

"We've been waiting for this monument to be built a long time," said Ivan Kulikov, a 68-year-old veteran who was strolling past the site Monday. "Now it's being built — it is finally coming

true."

Construction workers say Mr. Luzhkov visits the site daily to inspect their progress.

"There is a lot of pressure on us, and we've had to work extra shifts," said Sergei Anokhin, a 48-year-old master welder. He and his crew were working on the 141-metre tall pillar that towers over the church, a sprawling war museum and decorative fountains.

"We understand our responsibility," Mr. Anokhin said. "We don't need any extra motivation. We understand what this holiday means for all of us."

Nearby, workers were building bleachers along the parade route. At the triumphal arch, which commemorates Russia's victory over Napoleon, crew have been using high-pressure water hoses to blast away the grime.

Some cynical Muscovites have seen it all before: Last-minute paint jobs that begin peeling shortly after the holidays, new buildings that immediately look decades old, dirt that returns — always.

"This will all immediately be forgotten after May 9," said 65-year-old Vladimir Fedonov. "This will be covered with cigarette butts and the trash will be left for days."

After the holiday, it will be as dirty as it always is in Moscow."

President Yeltsin will grant a Victory Day amnesty to World War II veterans serving time in prison, the ITAR-TASS news agency said Monday.

The amnesty will cover people serving sentences of five years or less, the report said. Mr. Yeltsin is expected to grant the amnesty on May 9, the day Russia celebrates the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

ITAR-TASS did not say how many war veterans might get free under the amnesty.

Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin said Tuesday the wartime role of dictator Josef Stalin should not be underestimated, despite mistakes that left the Soviet Union vulnerable to Nazi attack.

"While noting all the talent and good deeds of our Soviet commanders, we must not stay silent about the importance of the deeds in the Great Patriotic War of Josef Vissarionovich Stalin. It would not be fair or just," Mr. Chernomyrdin told a conference.

His surprising plaudit for the now-disgraced dictator drew long applause from veterans at the conference on the lessons of World War II.

Support growing for end to Ireland divorce ban
DUBLIN (AP) — A majority of people in this country want an end to the blanket ban on divorce, a newspaper poll showed Tuesday. The Irish Marriage Survey Group poll of 1,000 people at 75 locations showed support for divorce was at its highest, among the 25 to 34 age group, with 75 per cent of those aged 25 to 34 supporting divorce laws, a rise from 68 per cent in November. The poll was conducted by the Irish Marriage Survey Group, which has been conducting polls on divorce for several years. The poll also found that 75 per cent of those aged 35 to 44 supported divorce laws, a rise from 68 per cent in November. The poll was conducted by the Irish Marriage Survey Group, which has been conducting polls on divorce for several years.

Bishops attack British film about gay priest
PARIS (R) — A new film about a gay priest, "The Priest," has been attacked by the Catholic Church. The film, which is about a priest who has a secret gay relationship, has been banned in some areas. The Catholic Church has said that the film is "offensive" and "immoral."

Kim Basinger is pregnant
NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Kim Basinger is pregnant, her publicist said Tuesday. Basinger, who is married to actor Kevin Costner, is expected to give birth in the summer.

Undertakers refuse burial of HIV-infected drug addict
SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Undertakers in Sarasota, Fla., refused to bury a man who died of AIDS, saying he was a drug addict and had been a burden on the community. The man, who was 45 years old, had been in the hospital for several months before dying. His family wanted to bury him in a private cemetery, but the undertakers refused.

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Environmental alarms

A MASTER'S degree dissertation submitted recently by a student to the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Jordan made new and additional revelation on car emissions that are both shocking and challenging. The research paper first outlined the extent of the crisis by providing salient data ranging from the fact that vehicle population in the country increased by 90 folds since the 1950s and that 70 per cent of these automobiles are registered in Amman. Yet the more troubling information is the disclosure that 49 per cent of all cars in the Kingdom still emit poisonous gases, such as carbon dioxide in amounts that are much higher than internationally permitted and 60 per cent of all diesel engines eject black smoke in amounts also exceeding all acceptable standards.

Ironically, these new scholarly findings coincide with the convening of a seminar on dangerous emissions by the Engineers Association which also highlighted the problem associated with industrial pollution and wastes as well as with the contamination of agriculture by the abuse of insecticides and pesticides. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat was more than candid in describing the extent of the national negligence even on the purity and quality of our drinking water. The minister's punch line, though, was his contention that 80-90 per cent of cancer cases in the country are attributable to pollution and contamination of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.

In retrospect, these findings only confirm what we have always suspected. Jordan is simply lagging behind other countries in its legislation on the environment. Mr. Thuheirat called for an early enactment of the draft law on environment protection and we hope, therefore, that Parliament would take action on the draft law when it reconvenes.

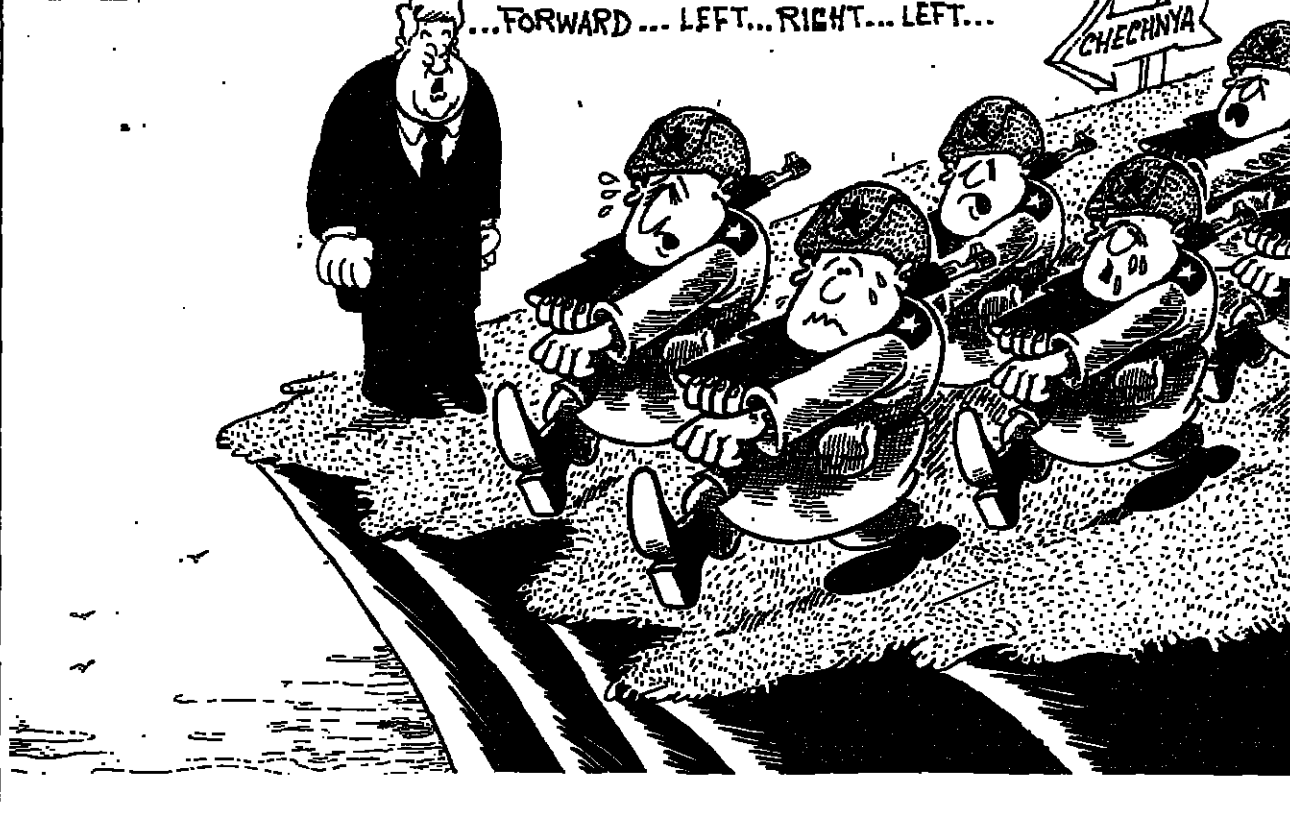
What is even more urgent is the enforcement of already existing environment protection measures. The government's interest in protecting the environment appears to be slackening instead of increasing, judging by the feeble way it enforces even existing half-baked laws. Take, for example, car emissions, which have been targeted on previous occasions by the Traffic Department. At best, the sporadic surveillance of the problem was inconsequential since cars still emit black smoke and poisonous gases as ever before. Recently, unleaded fuel was introduced to the market but this much belated step was not coupled with any marked publicity campaign to encourage the import of cars which can use unleaded gasoline only. More environment-conscious nations stopped the importation of automobiles using leaded benzene a long time ago. This much we can do with little or no cost since the price tag of unleaded engines is not higher than ordinary ones. Lower custom duties on cars would also mean the phasing out of old cars, which are the main source of dangerous emissions. All in all, there is a lot more that we can and ought to do that we are not doing.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday discussed municipal elections scheduled for July this year, expressing disappointment with the poor public turnout for voter registration. Tareq Masarweh said that should the rate of voter registration remain at this low level, it would be far better for the government to postpone the municipal elections. If the Jordanian citizens are not interested in choosing their representatives to run municipal services, why should the government bother to organise the elections at all, said the writer. He said the government could appoint public officials who can run municipalities in accordance with its own plans and in a manner that is considered most suitable for the local communities, if people are not interested in the elections.

TAHER AL Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, commented on the meeting in New York by delegates from various nations to discuss the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is regrettable, said the writer, that the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement have no say in the meeting as they are all influenced by the decisions of the major world powers, particularly the United States. Therefore, the developing nations are bound to agree to the extension despite their knowledge that Israel, which possesses nuclear weapons, continues to refuse to sign the accord in defiance of the world community, said the writer. The New York meeting will no doubt be influenced by Washington and world Zionism; and the Arab states, along with the other developing nations, will have no choice but to succumb to the American-Zionist will, according to the writer.

M. KAHIL



Milosevic believes time on his side

By Sean Maguire
Reuters

BELGRADE — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is banking on Western eagerness for a peace deal in Bosnia at almost any price to deliver his long-term goal of regional supremacy, diplomats say.

He calculates that international frustration at his failure to recognise Bosnia will end in his favour and that sanctions will crumble, leaving him paramount leader in the Balkans.

"Milosevic thinks time is on his side," said one Western diplomat reflecting on the stalemate peace process.

The U.N.'s powerlessness to answer the weekend sniping deaths of two French peacekeepers illustrated the international paralysis in Bosnia, which Mr. Milosevic exploits.

"He feels it works to his advantage, that in the long-term he can duck sanctions, change rulers in Pale (the Bosnian Serb capital), hold onto the Krajina (Croatian) Serbs and end up with a de facto greater Serbia," the diplomat said.

Mr. Milosevic last week rebuffed peace envoys to travel to Belgrade to offer him a partial suspension of crippling trade sanctions in exchange for recognising Bosnia's independence.

Both France and the United States expressed exasperation at his stance, accusing him of blocking peace efforts and warning he would be responsible if all-out war broke out in Bosnia this summer.

Their outbursts indicated how firmly the big power "Contact Group" trying to forge a peace settlement in Bosnia sees Mr. Milosevic as the only tool they have to influence the obstinate Bosnian Serbs, who refused to accept a peace deal.

Diplomats say Mr. Milosevic is trying to engineer Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic's dismissal and install puppets who will accept the Contact Group plan.

The deal gives the Serbs half of Bosnia bound in only the loosest of unions to the Muslim-led Sarajevo government.

The West needs Mr. Milosevic to oust Mr. Karadzic and it is this vital

role which he will exploit to keep the Contact Group, increasingly desperate to end the war, coming back to his door to discuss sanctions and recognition.

"The process will keep going, we'll continue to engage with him," said one weary diplomat who denied further concessions would be made soon to encourage Mr. Milosevic's cooperation.

Mr. Milosevic argues both that he has no role in Bosnia, hence sanctions imposed for interference in the war there should be lifted, and that recognition cannot happen until the political status of Serb communities in Croatia and Bosnia is resolved.

The apparent contradiction between a strong Serb interest but no interference in Bosnia reflects a desire to be rid of sanctions but not at the cost of abandoning the primary war aim of tying together Serb-held lands.

If the political cost of winning sanctions relief is too high, Mr. Milosevic is gambling that his ravaged economy can survive the crippling embargo, imposed in 1992, for a while longer.

The sanctions regime may collapse in any case, with the neighbouring states whose economies bear the brunt of enforcing the trade embargo refusing to pay the cost, diplomats fear.

Whether sanctions wither or end by international order it is doubtful they will stop Mr. Milosevic from gaining control over client Serb states in Bosnia and possibly Croatia, giving him the "greater Serbia" he publicly denies is his goal.

If he succeeds in removing Mr. Karadzic the half of Bosnia that will fall to the Serbs in the Contact Group peace plan will be under his effective rule. Mr. Milosevic also controls the rebel Serbs who rule a third of Croatia.

Belgrade diplomats refuse to bet who will win in a war of nerves between the West and the master political strategist of the Balkans.

Mr. Milosevic is showing supreme confidence still, said one Western envoy. "He hasn't had to make many concessions yet and his confidence is so great it borders on arrogance."

Yen's rise, dollar's fall cause mixed fallout in Asia

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

SEOUL — Not everyone is crying about the yen's recent jump and the dollar's plunge. A withering breeze to some around Asia, the wild currency fluctuations springs windfalls on others.

Winners range from South Korean carmakers to Thai resorts to the Rolling Stones touring Japan. Losers include Japanese exporters and countries paying off loans in yen.

Singapore's good news-bad news story is typical in Asia. Its dollar has gone up against the greenback and down against the yen.

"The net impact will be a mixed bag," said Manminder Singh, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute in Singapore. "But we are not too worried about it. We are still fairly competitive."

About 22 per cent of Singapore's imports are from Japan, which the rising yen will make more expensive. But the stronger Singapore dollar will effectively neutralise rises for importers of U.S. dollar-priced goods and help keep a lid on inflation.

It will take months for the fallout to trickle down completely, but some people are being hit now.

"The short-term answer is, it is hurting us," said Toyota Australia spokesman Patrick Neville, whose company faces price rises of 8 per cent to 10 per cent in the coming months.

Tan Chong and Sons Motor Co., which distributes Nissan cars in Singapore, already has raised prices once and plans another hike by next week.

Hong Kong electronics importer Anthony Cheung, who originally took a wait-and-see approach, has been forced to increase the price of T.V. sets with Japanese-made picture tubes.

As the cost of overseas travel for Japanese goes down, hoteliers and travel agents around Asia are marketing vacations targeting Japanese tourists. Thailand, with its highly developed resort industry, stands to benefit in particular.

Some countries will come out ahead as industries seek cheaper places to operate.

Singh said Singapore can look forward to more high-end investments by Japanese companies in research and development and high-tech production.

China could benefit, too, but will have to do more to cut costs, raise efficiency and improve product quality, said Chen Wenjing, deputy chief and senior economist with the Trade Ministry's International Trade Research Institute.

On the down side, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Jordan and other countries have loans in yen that have skyrocketed in value almost overnight.

While stressing its ability to repay, China has repeatedly appealed to Japan to reduce the burden of its 1.68 trillion yen (\$20 billion) debt. Yen loans account for 40 per cent of China's national debt.

"It is true that China and some other countries are making such requests," Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said. "But we have been telling them that we cannot easily act at this point."

Analysts say Indonesia's debts go up at least \$300 million for every 1 per cent that the yen rises against the dollar.

"A prolonged fall of the dollar... will squeeze our economy... and the government sector will be forced to contract public spending," said Pandu R. Silalahi, an economist at Indonesia's Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Indonesian Finance Minister Marie Muhammad said agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank will be lobbied to make their loans in U.S. dollars.

Taiwan worries that its goods will be replaced by cheaper Chinese and Mexican products in the U.S. market. Its currency, which has been rising against the U.S. dollar since 1987, has appreciated another 4 per cent against the greenback since January.

"If the dollar's decline continues, we may see another economic reshuffling like what happened in 1985 when the yen last soared," said Tsai Hung-Ming, an economist at the Federation of Industries.

The 1985 yen appreciation boosted the exports of Taiwan, South Korea and other newly industrialised nations. The dollar's decline this time could give rise to new economic powers such as China, India, Vietnam and Thailand, Mr. Tsai said.

Hong Kong's main fear is that because its currency is pegged to the U.S. dollar, the higher yen will fuel inflation. Ian Perkin, chief economist at the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, sees it reaching 9.8 per cent at the end of year. Before the yen shot up, the government had projected 8.5 per cent.

The plus side, analysts say, is that it may give a boost to Chinese products competing with Japan's. Chinese manufacturing is crucial for Hong Kong, which reexports much of the production.

South Korean businesses, which have been challenging Japan in electronics, computer chips, cars and bulk carrier ships, are salivating over the higher yen.

"South Korea probably will become the biggest beneficiary," said Kwon Soon-Woo, a fellow at the

Samsung Economic Research Institute, run by the country's largest conglomerate.

"We don't see any immediate windfalls yet, but if the high-yen trend continues, the effects will show in the coming months."

The Korea Automobile Industry Association this week raised its export target from \$50,000 cars to nearly 1 million because of the rising yen.

Selling electronics to Japan may sound like selling coal to Newcastle, but the Japanese increasingly are looking to South Korea and other countries.

South Korea's Daewoo Electronics' colour television plant can't accept new orders because it's running 24 hours a day already. It exports TVs to Japan.

In Japan, people who are paid in dollars are being squeezed, although many companies are making adjustments.

U.S. air force Maj. Kevin Krejcarek said he feels the pinch when he buys local fish and fresh vegetables. But he said the military makes regular cost-of-living adjustments.

"Will people be affected by change? Yes. Will they be affected greatly? We hope not," Mr. Krejcarek said. "People who spend a lot of yen will feel the pinch more, mostly single people who go out to nightclubs and things like that."

One of the earliest winners in the yen's rise was the Rolling Stones.

The band reaped a windfall by negotiating recent concert stops in yen. Japan's Nikkei weekly reported. Between the contract signing and when they were paid, the rising yen added an estimated \$2 million to the deal.

It sounds like Mick Jagger's studies at the London School of Economics paid off.

Peace — sooner or never

By John V. Whitbeck

THE GO-slow pace of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's intertwined "peace process" and reelection strategy has been premised on the belief that his and his party's electoral prospects would be enhanced by taking no steps and saying and doing nothing which could seriously upset any significant Israeli constituency prior to the 1996 Knesset elections. This strategy has been pursued without any apparent concern for its predictably catastrophic effects on Palestinian attitudes towards a "peace process" which does not appear to be leading anywhere they wish to go. With the current "peace process" stalled on the brink of an explosive collapse and with the Labour Party trailing disastrously in the polls, the bankruptcy of this strategy is clear. Paradoxically, this opens up the possibility of a dramatic acceleration of the actual achievement of peace.

Purely personal and partisan political calculations now demand that the Israeli government promptly begin "permanent status" negotiations with the Palestinians with a view to reaching a true peace agreement before 1996 elections and to making those elections a straight choice between peace, on agreed terms, and renewed confrontation. Faced with such a choice, Israeli voters might well accept terms which opinion polls show them rejecting today.

When Israelis and Palestinians express their disillusionment with the fruits of "peace" or bemoan the agonising slowness, threatened breakdown or pointless continuation of talks, they are victims of a fundamental semantic error and a dangerous political misconception. Not only is there no peace but peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have not yet begun. The Declaration of Principles signed in September 1993 provides that negotiations on all the essential issues on which peace depends (Jerusalem, settlers, refugees and borders) are to begin "as soon as possible" but not later than a date which, due to earlier delays in implementing the Declaration, has become May 4, 1996.

It is widely assumed that Mr. Rabin plans to refuse to begin true peace talks at least until May 1996 (presumably on the grounds that it would be "impossible" to begin them sooner) and, if rejected, to drag them out at least until the May 1999 deadline for their conclusion. No "peace process" could survive so long. Procrastination and delay are not the friends of peace. Each day that passes without any progress towards peace (as opposed to sustaining a process that decreases minorities on both sides believe could ever lead to peace) destroys confidence rather than builds it, feeds frustration and despair and encourages violence.

On a practical and technical level, negotiations on "interim status" were always destined to be vastly more complex and difficult

than true peace talks. The negotiators are asked to start together down a road to God only knows where, since they aren't allowed to discuss where the road leads and everyone fears the worst. They are asked to take steps forward together when each side wishes to go in a different direction and arrive at a different destination. All disclaimers to the contrary notwithstanding, everyone knows that any concession made in an "interim status" agreement will have an impact on "permanent status". All the "permanent status" problems are thus added to all the extraordinarily awkward aspects of structuring coexistence during an "interim period" in which Israeli settlers and military forces are to remain in the occupied territories.

Time to talk peace

In these circumstances, it is remarkable that, since September 1993, any "interim status" agreements, however unsatisfactory, have been reached at all. Yet the further "interim status" negotiations that lie ahead promise to be even more difficult. It is high time to call a halt to this ill-conceived, confidence-destroying and near-impossible exercise and to start true peace talks. Even if a true peace agreement needed to be implemented in stages, negotiating the modalities of those stages would be immensely simplified if the destination were agreed and known.

The critical problems which must be resolved if a true Israeli-Palestinian peace is ever to be achieved are already well-known. So are their potential solutions. The obstacles are more political and psychological than practical or technical. There is little reason to believe that the passage of time will make these problems easier to resolve and ample evidence that it aggravates them and will continue to do so. Even if a 1993 four years were available in which to agree on how a true peace was to be structured, such a delay would not be necessary or even helpful.

If the leaderships which the Israeli and Palestinian peoples now have cannot advance their non-sacred deadline and reach a true peace agreement between now (or, ideally, the prompt holding of the Palestinian elections originally scheduled for last July) and next year's Israeli elections, then peace is simply not possible. What are the arguments — practical, ethical or electoral — for refusing even to try? Israeli-Palestinian peace is not inevitable. It is not a question of "sooner or later". It may well be a question of "sooner or never".

If Mr. Rabin offered his people peace and they accepted, he would be Israel's greatest statesman. If he offered them peace and they turned it down, he would at least go down in history as a leader who tried to do the right thing and dared to truly lead.

John V. Whitbeck is an international lawyer in Paris. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International.

LETTERS

Tennis team needs help

To the Editor:

I READ with interest a report by your staff reporter, Aileen Bannayan, on Jordan's participation in the just concluded Davis Cup competition in Dubai (Jordan Times, April 15).

I wish to thank you for covering the event exactly what most of the other Jordanian media totally ignored it. Ms. Bannayan indicates rightly that there will not be a bright future for our Jordanian Davis Cup team, and tennis in Jordan as a whole, as long as the team lacks competitive contacts, training and support of the public, officials and the media.

However, I would like to point out that the writer mistakenly reported that Imad Abu Hamda and Khaled Nafa'a lost the doubles match against Bangladesh, while it was Abu Hamda and Khaled Hussein who were defeated 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

As to Khaled Hussein, I wish to say that he is not a total newcomer lacking competitive match experience; he surely needs further support and competition, but if we are to judge by his record, he is one of California's schools' top ranked players and is 10-1 for the state's top-ranked team this season.

Maan K. Hussein,
Amman.

Editor's note: We regret the fact that the Jordan Times was unable to correct the error made originally by the news agency which reported the results of the event from Dubai concerning Mr. Hussein's name.

King stresses need for unity

(Continued from page 1) such visits reflected the strong relations and cooperation between Jordan and those countries.

The King said his meetings with the political, economic and intellectual leaders of those countries reflected their countries' respect for Jordan and the Kingdom's democratic march, respect for human rights and freedoms and efforts to achieve justice and peace.

The King also listened to briefings by several ministers on various issues, including the July 11 municipal elections, economic and financial issues and development plans.

U.S. confident of NPT extension

(Continued from page 1) countries.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear capability are aimed at destroying Israel.

Mr. Peres told Israel Radio that Iran, which has signed the NPT, "is spitting out what it signs. It is a country that cheats. Everything it says is not worth a clove of garlic. In reality, it is working in a number of ways to acquire a nuclear option."

"This is a country that says publicly that it intends to destroy another people," Mr. Peres said. "In order to realize its threat it is trying to acquire a nuclear option and smuggle information and nuclear materials."

Iran's nuclear sites are regularly inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which says it has found no evidence of a military programme.

But U.S. officials are sceptical, and are trying to pressure China and Russia to stop helping it acquire nuclear technology. China rejected U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's personal appeal Monday to abandon a proposed nuclear deal.

"We regard Iran as a state that is projecting terrorism throughout the Middle East

and other parts of the world," Mr. Christopher said in New York.

"We regard it as a country that is trying to undermine the peace process ... and trying to go forward with development of weapons of mass destruction."

"We feel no nation ought to go forward with nuclear cooperation with Iran ... it is too dangerous to do so."

Israel, which is widely believed to have a nuclear stockpile, has refused to sign the treaty.

Syria slammed the pressure on Arab countries to agree to an indefinite extension of the NPT saying it would refuse to sign until Israel joins.

"Some parties are applying strong pressure on the Arabs to force them to sign the NPT while making excuses for Israel not to join," the government daily Tishrin said.

Tishrin said the "current situation in the Middle East forces the Arabs to defend themselves by all means."

It said the real aim was to "prevent the Arabs from using nuclear power for civilian means and to stop them developing it."

"The international community must force Israel to sign the NPT otherwise Syria will not join," the paper added.

Iraqi assembly debates deal

(Continued from page 1) telling the committee the goal behind the "U.S. decision" was "not to limit or end the suffering of the Iraqi people but it is a malicious attempt" to avoid lifting sanctions.

INA said the various committees would discuss the resolution this week before a full meeting of the assembly expected next week - to give Iraq's final position.

In Washington on Monday, State Department spokeswoman Christine Sheil

ly said Iraq's reported rejection of the resolution proved Baghdad did not care about the suffering of its people (see page 2).

The United Nations had not so far received "a formal written response from the government of Iraq as to their acceptance or non-acceptance of that resolution," spokesman Joe Sills said, but he referred to news reports that it had been turned down.

Hebron mayor assails curfew

(Continued from page 1) Bank town.

Right-wingers and settlers carried banners against any government attempt to remove the 415 Israelis who live in fortified compounds in the city.

At least three Jews stopped to urinate in the doors of Arab homes, watched by an

AFP photographer.

After Passover religious services at the Ibrahim Mosque, which was closed to Muslims, the Israelis marched to a neighbouring Jewish quarter and laid a foundation stone in memory of two settlers killed a month ago.

Five families will live in the new building, settler spokesman Noam Arnon said.

Crown Prince in Doha

(Continued from page 1) Calling for a greater measure of inter-Arab cooperation in trade, the Crown Prince noted that inter-Arab trade does not exceed 10 per cent of the Arab countries' trade with the rest of the world.

Prince Hassan also called for cooperation among countries around the Mediterranean Sea and between the countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Kabariti, Christopher hold talks

(Continued from page 1) The only Arab foreign ministers attending the review are from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, Petra said. The Arab League had requested that all Arab foreign ministers take part in the New York meeting, it noted.

Mr. Kabariti also had meetings with the foreign ministers of Lebanon and Syria to discuss coordination vis-a-vis the NPT.

It said that the four foreign ministers were scheduled to fly to Indonesia on Thursday to participate in the meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement.



Kobe residents wait in line to receive water after the earthquake that led to severe public criticism of the government for its handling of the crisis (AFP photo)

As Kobe rises from devastation, Japan ponders the aftershocks

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

KOBE, Japan — The pounding of jack hammers and wrecking balls are a constant backdrop, not the wail of sirens. Free lunches are no longer given out at the headquarters of local gangsters, who have returned to their usual endeavours.

Three months after suffering Japan's worst earthquake in more than 70 years, Kobe remains a city of devastation. But among the flattened buildings and twisted concrete, this once scenic port also presents a lesson in survival.

To those who were here when Kobe lay crushed and burning Jan. 17 — with more than 5,500 people dead and \$120 billion in physical damage — the speed and extent of the recovery already made is striking.

But there have been negative surprises as well. One of the most ominous was discovering the vulnerability of structures on reclaimed land, which is widely used in coastal cities of this crowded nation. On the national level, the government has proven less able to deal quickly with major emergencies than many

Japanese hoped.

In the centre of it all, however, the mood is one of determination.

After round-the-clock efforts, the bullet trains once again pass through Kobe linking Japan east and west, and the maddening traffic jams that halted even ambulances after the quake are gone.

Thousands who sat outside shattered homes bewildered and dishevelled now rush to work every morning, their suits and dresses clean and neat. Children are back in their school uniforms, books in hand.

At city hall there is a growing sense of optimism, a feeling that the real recovery question isn't whether, but when.

"We hope to have all the basics, the infrastructure, completely restored in another two years," said Koichi Yokoyama, an official at the Earthquake Damage Recovery Department whose office overlooks Kobe's still idle port.

Of course, for thousands of families, life will never be the same.

The quake forced more than 250,000 people to seek emergency shelter in school gymnasiums, community centres and tents on river banks. About 40,000, like Haryuiki Matsuoka, re-

main there.

Unlike most of the people who returned home once water and heating were restored, Mr. Matsuoka has no home to return to. His business, a public bath, was also destroyed.

"I still haven't got the foggiest idea what I'm going to do," he said, sitting alongside his wife and three small children in a park with hundreds of other homeless eating a soupy lunch provided by the government.

Kobe has erected 40,000 temporary homes and appropriated tens of thousands of existing, but unused, housing units. City hall hopes to find more housing for the remaining refugees by summer.

Finding them jobs is another matter.

"It's difficult," said Mr. Yokoyama. "But we believe that the faster we can get the infrastructure back, the faster businesses will be able to start up again, and thus start generating jobs."

Because the Japanese archipelago straddles three tectonic plates and is one of the world's most earthquake-prone regions, the psychological jolt from Kobe is still being felt nationwide.

Bookstores across the country now devote shelves

to manuals on quake survival, first-person accounts of the Kobe horror, predictions of where the "big one" will hit next.

Tokyo, which in 1923 was hit by a quake and subsequent fires that killed some 142,000 people, tops many of the lists of most-likely spots. According to one theory of historical cycles, a major quake is due in the capital every 70 to 80 years.

Concerns over a perceived lack of political leadership have deepened the general anxiety.

Slammed for his administration's poorly coordinated handling of the Kobe emergency in its early stages, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has ordered reviews of contingency plans for everything from quickly ordering emergency rescue teams to procuring recovery funds.

In the meantime, new problems have appeared.

Although economists had predicted rebuilding Kobe would give Japan's still sluggish economy a boost, they now say the recent rise of the yen to a record high against the U.S. dollar could offset the quake-recovery impetus.

The stronger yen eats into the profits of Japanese exporters, and Mr. Murayama has been criti-

cised for failing to slow its rise. Some political analysts believe that barring a dramatic improvement, he could be out of a job as early as this summer.

"The view that politics generally is not working properly, that it is incapable of making quick decisions, has quickly spread," said Kenzo Uchida, a well-known political commentator.

In government ministries, agencies and departments, the wheels of change are indeed turning slowly.

Hideaki Iwasaki of the construction ministry, which sets national building codes, said a major overhaul is in the works, but so far the main action has been the formation of committees and publication of interim reports.

Officials say that newer buildings came through the quake relatively well and that most of the total losses were older, often wooden, structures.

One of the most widely used photos of the Kobe disaster showed a bus hanging precariously over the edge of a partially collapsed overpass. But existing standards for overpasses, bridges and other raised structures are being cited as a point of encouragement.

"Most of the damage in newer bridges built since a 1980 revision of construction standards was relatively light," said Yasahiko Iwasaki, a road and bridge specialist at the construction ministry.

The collapsed stretch of raised highway — where Kobe's first deaths were confirmed — was built under the old rules, and will take years to rebuild.

Engineers were probably most surprised by the extent of liquefaction, which is the sudden mixing of underground water with soil to create a sort of quicksand.

Buildings in Japan are made to standards that assume liquefaction occurs only a few metres below the surface, said Koichi Nakamura, a geologist at Osaka City College. But he and his colleagues found liquefaction as deep as 10 metres on reclaimed land in Kobe.

Mr. Nakamura noted that Tokyo's waterfront is lined with chemical plants, oil refineries, factories and densely populated neighbourhoods that rest on similar, potentially volatile ground.

Associated Press reporters Seth Sutel, Braven Smilie and Peter Landers contributed to this story.

Rabin: PNA under threat

(Continued from page 1) The talks on elections during this session," he said.

That would leave the questions of transfer of power and the size and scope of an autonomy assembly to settle, as well as the redeployment of Israeli forces outside Palestinian towns.

But Dr. Erakat underlined that no separate agreement would be signed on the elections.

A new agreement will cover all the above aspects to complete the second phase of autonomy as under the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy, he said.

Islamic Jihad warned the PNA "to stop arresting and jailing Muslim fundamentalists and threatened more attacks on Israel."

The PNA has released dozens more of the suspected militants it detained after the recent suicide bombings, a Palestinian official said.

"We released 60 to 70 in the last several days because nothing was proved against them and we found them innocent," prosecutor general Khaled Al Kidra told Reuters.

Since the April 9 attacks, five members of the militant groups have been sentenced to jail terms by a Gaza court and one Islamic Jihad man received life imprisonment.

On Monday, Hamas and

PLO officials said their officials were secretly meeting to reach an accord to prevent anti-Israeli attacks.

On Monday night Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi and Islamic leader Sheikh Abdullah Nimer Darwish, Arab-Israeli figures who were key mediators in a Hamas-PLO confrontation last November, arrived in Gaza for talks with the PLO chairman.

Dr. Tibi told Reuters on Tuesday he had met Hamas leader Mahmoud Al Zahar and then Mr. Arafat.

"I am not going to reveal anything now, but the situation is better than yesterday and the day before that," Dr. Tibi said.

Meanwhile, the PLO rejected what it said was an offer by Mr. Rabin to agree to a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip.

"The offer made by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to set up a Palestinian state in Gaza is rejected," Nabil Abu Rdeineh, press adviser to Mr. Arafat, said.

Israel formally opposes the principle of Palestinian statehood, although several members of Mr. Rabin's centre-left coalition have publicly endorsed the idea.

Mr. Abu Rdeineh said in a statement that the state envisaged by the PLO "includes the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including (Arab East) Jerusalem."

Vietnam not leaving the mind of America

By Robert Kearns
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The bitter-sweet tributes to the fallen Vietnam warriors are collected just after sunrise, before the crowds arrive to stand before "the vast black wall of broken lives," the Vietnam veterans memorial.

Left on the walk before the stark three metre by 75-metre polished black granite walls are cans of unopened beer, a rag doll, full bottles of Jack Daniels and Martell's cognac, packs of Marlboros, a party dress, Little League baseball caps, children's photographs, wedding rings, medals, battle ribbons, scrawled notes from old friends and children, and flowers left by visitors.

Toasts never drunk, cigarettes never smoked, children and grandchildren never seen.

The mementos are carted to a nearby building at the Smithsonian Institution where the National Park Service catalogues and preserves them, even the

flowers are dried in books. To discard them would demean the mostly anonymous givers, they say. A small portion is on display at the Museum of American History.

"Say you had a buddy and you promised to meet him when it was over and he never made it," Jerry Hanna, who works for the park service at the wall, said of the unopened bottles and cans he often finds when he arrives in the morning.

He leaves them undisturbed until they are packed away.

Two million six hundred thousand Americans went to Southeast Asia for the war and 58,132 never came home.

Their names are etched on the wall, which draws more visitors each year since the \$7 million structure was finished in 1984.

The park service says 1.7 million come each year, far more than troop to the nearby Lincoln Memorial.

Washington's second-

favourite tourist destination.

In contrast, a nearby statue of General John "Black Jack" Pershing, meant as a memorial to the 4.7 million who served under him in the World War I, is little noticed.

On a recent visit, it was so quiet on a sun-splashed spring day that two homeless men shared a cigarette sitting in the shade of Mr. Pershing's horse.

The two Jima Memorial, dedicated to the U.S. marines who fought in the Pacific in World War II and other scattered memorials to past wars, draw far smaller crowds. Lack of money has left a proposed Korean war memorial on the drawing board.

Oddly, the attraction of the Vietnam veterans memorial was not by design.

Even before it was over and the last American helicopter whirled away through the smoking Saigon sky, politicians tried to erase the memory of Vietnam.

They failed badly.

"American preoccupa-

tion continues to expand in exponential proportions," says University of Alabama professor Philip Beidler, who studies the war and its cultural fallout.

For two decades, there has been a steady flow of films, books, music, television shows and even a musical, "Miss Saigon," the story of a 17-year-old Vietnamese woman who falls in love with an American, in its fourth year on Broadway and a road version is making a national tour.

A week before the Saigon pullout in 1975, President Gerald Ford warned the nation against dwelling on the war.

Speaking at Tulane University in New Orleans, Mr. Ford said: "Today, Americans can regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam. But it cannot be achieved by refighting a war that is finished."

But for the nearly two million people who visit the wall each year to remember those who died, the war will never end.

HOLY WEEK
CATHOLIC SERVICES
IN ENGLISH

<p>19 April 08:30 p.m.</p> <p>20 April 08:00 p.m.</p> <p>21 April 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>22 April 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>23 April 11:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 06:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday Prayer service and individual confessions (several priests)</p> <p>Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper.</p> <p>Good Friday Prayer service of the Lord's Passion</p> <p>Holy Saturday Mass of Easter Vigil Latin Church of De La Salle (Freres)- Jebel Husseln</p> <p>Easter Sunday Masses of the Lord's Resurrection - In English Jebel Amman - Latin Church Jebel Lwbedleh Swafleh Jebel Husseln</p>
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World Bank calls on developing states to leap into world economy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Leaders of developing countries can raise living standards in their struggling nations by opening markets and seeking to join the world economy, the World Bank said in a report Tuesday.

But letting poorer countries into the club of the wealthier presents short-term challenges to industrial nations whose labour forces will be inevitably affected by the change, the report said.

"There is no doubt that greater integration can be a win-win outcome. Protectionist pressures to slow or reverse integration must be resisted, or both industrial and developing countries will lose," said Masood Ahmad, the World Bank's director of international economics.

The international financial institution said the collapse of trade barriers increased options for individuals and firms but narrowed them for governments as the recent crisis in Mexico has shown.

"It is more important than ever that government everywhere maintain sound macroeconomic fundamentals and strict discipline in their economic management," said the bank's chief economist, Michael Bruno.

The report titled "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries" predicted rapid growth in the world market as globalisation takes hold.

World trade will continue to be a major engine of growth over the next 10 years with world merchandise trade expected to grow by more than six per cent a year, faster than any time since the 1960s.

With help from liberal policies in developing countries, annual growth in the next 10 years could outpace industrial countries, reaching 4.9 per cent compared to a projected 2.8 per cent in wealthier nations, the report said.

Industrial countries can also hope to widen their access to developing markets which accounted for one-fifth of the wealthier nations' exports in the late 1980s.

The share has grown to one-quarter and "could

account for well over one-third toward the end of the decade," the report said.

Industrial countries can also increase their exports in the service sector and portfolio investment in emerging markets provide an outlet for higher returns for the savings of their aging population.

The World Bank emphasised that the economic performances of developing countries differ widely with growth predictions for East Asia still strong at 7.7 per cent for the 1995 to 2004 period, compared to eight per cent in 1991-1994.

Regional growth was expected to ease due to a cooling-off of the Chinese economy and the slowing of capital inflows. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was expected to rise to 6.5 per cent from 6.4 per cent.

World Bank analysts predicted strong growth in South Asia at 5.4 per cent in 1995-2004, compared to five per cent in the past decade. GDP per capita growth was expected to reach 3.6 per cent

in the next 10 years, up from 2.8 per cent in the previous decade.

But analysts warned that south Asia would only fare well if governments continued to promote open-trade policies and encourage the private sector.

Latin America and the Caribbean should register a 3.5 per cent growth rate in 1995-2004 compared to 2.4 per cent in the previous decade.

GDP per capita growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was expected to reach 1.9 per cent, up from 0.3 per cent with significant disparity in economies throughout the region.

Economic performance in Europe and Central Asia was expected to grow with the GDP expected to register 3.4 per cent in 1995-2005 from its past recession years during which the GDP was at -2.5 per cent.

In the Middle East and North Africa, economic growth was estimated at 3.5 per cent from 0.9 per cent in the past decade.

Japan urges U.S. to do more to defend dollar

TOKYO (R) — Japanese leaders, frustrated with Washington's reaction to their emergency economic package, urged the United States Tuesday to take responsibility for the dollar's latest fall against the yen.

"The U.S. should take responsibility for the fall of the dollar against the yen as it is the country with the key currency status," home affairs minister Hiromu Nonaka was quoted as telling a cabinet ministers' meeting.

The remarks followed a renewed drop of the dollar in Tokyo Tuesday after Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura failed to win favourable comments on the package, unveiled last Friday, from U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

The dollar fell to about 81.50 yen in late Tokyo trading on Tuesday compared with about 83.55 yen last Friday.

Mr. Rubin, who met Mr. Takemura Sunday during a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Indonesia, said in

New Delhi during a visit to India that he was reserving final judgment on the package.

Mr. Rubin said it would be premature to judge the package until he saw the specifics. Japan is expected to work out details of economic measures in the package over the next few months.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Shun Oide told the same cabinet meeting he was dissatisfied with the U.S. reaction to the package.

Mr. Takemura told a news conference he would welcome any countries joining together to urge the U.S. to make further efforts to defend the sagging dollar.

He was responding to a question about whether Japan and Europe would jointly call on the United States to step up its defence of the dollar at a meeting of the Group of Seven major nations next week in Washington.

Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei told the cabinet he was unhappy with the lack of

U.S. efforts to support the dollar. Japan wants the U.S. to try harder to cut its budget deficit, which it says is a major factor in the dollar's weakness.

Government officials told Reuters that one of the major items in the package would be a large supplementary budget for fiscal 1995, which began on April 1.

The supplementary budget may top two trillion yen (\$24.6 billion) compared with two extra budgets in fiscal 1994 totalling 1.7 trillion yen (\$20.9 billion), they said.

Construction Minister Koken Nosaka told reporters that the extra budget needs to be substantially higher than the 2.1 trillion yen (\$25.9 billion) reported in the daily Yomiuri Shimbun Tuesday.

It should be large enough to bring about a real increase in domestic demand, Mr. Nosaka said.

Last week, Economic Planning Agency Minister Masahiko Komura said that if necessary Japan would draw up a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1995.

Dollar drifts lower as outlook remains grim

LONDON (R) — The dollar resumed its downward drift against the yen Tuesday, undermining Europe's leading share markets and helping gold to rise to its highest level for more than six months.

Economists said the dollar was likely to set fresh lows against the yen within the next few days.

"The overall picture for the dollar is very weak," said Tony Norfield, treasury economist at ABN Amro.

At 1100 GMT the dollar was at 81.30 yen and 1.3640 marks compared with 83.53 and 1.3894 in late trading Thursday.

The lack of enthusiasm for Japan's economic package — announced Friday along with a 75 basis points cut in the official discount rate to one per cent — sparked early selling which took the dollar below crucial support at 81.50 yen.

After a steady start versus the mark from overnight levels the dollar also fell against the mark, undermined by its feeble performance in the wake of the German rate cut late last month.

"There seems to be next to nothing on the horizon nearest to change the dollar's fortunes," said a dealer at a German bank in London. "What can you expect if, after rate cuts in Germany and in Japan, it still looks as sick as it is now."

Europe's share markets took their lead from the dollar's weakness and moved into the red in generally thin and cautious trading.

China growth slows but remains high

BEIJING (R) — China's economic growth remained high in the first quarter of 1995 but is showing signs of cooling, and officials say they hope a clamp on price rises would help to rein in galloping inflation.

Gross domestic product rose 11.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1995 to 981.1 billion yuan (\$116.5 billion) from the same 1994 period, the State Statistics Bureau said Tuesday.

"Economic growth was high but stable," bureau spokesman Qiu Xiaohua told a news conference. "The rate of growth was somewhat slower."

Real growth was a seasonally adjusted 10 per cent, he said. China has set a target of economic growth of eight to nine per cent for 1995 compared with 11.8 per cent in 1994.

China's economy overheated in 1993, but has cooled and entered a stage in which

it would experience stable growth, Mr. Qiu said.

"Demand and supply are now balanced and fast growth has gradually decreased," Mr. Qiu said.

China has achieved initial success in curbing inflation after consumer prices soared to a post-1949 high of more than 24 per cent in 1994, fuelled mainly by fixed asset investment and hikes in agricultural product prices.

The consumer price index rose 21.3 per cent in March compared with a year ago, its fifth successive monthly decline and a fall of 1.1 percentage points from February, the bureau said.

Inflation in the first quarter was 22.6 per cent year on year. Inflation had been rising sharply in the past 18 months.

"The control of prices has attained some results, manifest in a fall in price increases. This shows preliminary control," Mr. Qiu said.

"Currently there is an abundant supply of goods in the market and consumer psychology is stable."

However, Beijing still faces a tough task to attain its official target of reining in inflation at 15 per cent in 1995.

"So long as agricultural investment and production increase and no new price hikes are announced, there is a possibility we could achieve the target," he said.

Investment in fixed assets by state-owned enterprises jumped 31.3 per cent in the first quarter to 111.8 billion yuan (\$13.3 billion) from the same 1994 period, the bureau said.

Fixed asset investment in the agricultural sector skyrocketed 90.1 per cent in the first quarter from a year ago, and bank loans for agriculture increased 40 per cent.

Other problems facing China's economy include triangular debts, or debts

among state-owned enterprises.

"Enterprises owing each other money is quite serious, and the management of and profits made by enterprises are not promising," Mr. Qiu said.

A total of 46.8 per cent of state enterprises recorded losses in the first quarter, down 2.8 percentage points from the same 1994 period, he said. Their losses totalled 14.8 billion yuan (\$1.8 billion), down 4.7 per cent from a year ago.

The complete value of industrial output of enterprises climbed 14.4 per cent in the first quarter to 399.6 billion yuan (\$47.5 billion) from a year ago.

China had a trade surplus of \$7.08 billion in the first quarter on exports of \$30.95 billion and imports of \$23.87 billion. Foreign exchange reserves hit a record \$58 billion, up by \$6.4 billion from the end of last year.

Asia-Pacific economies led world in '94 — U.N.

BANGKOK (AFP) — The volatile economies of the Asia-Pacific region reigned as world leaders in growth in 1994, expanding an average 7.7 per cent compared with the global average of three per cent, the United Nations said Tuesday.

China was the fastest-growing economy in the region, growing at an estimated 11.8 per cent, according to survey results released by the U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, or ESCAP.

Singapore and Vietnam were next, averaging 9.8 per cent and 8.9 per cent growth respectively, the annual Economic and Social Survey said.

Overall, the region's economic growth was up a half percentage point from 1993, when economies grew by an average 7.2 per cent.

China's growth was down slightly from last year's rate of 13.4 per cent, but it was considered a strong showing after the country's agricultural sector was badly hurt by a series of natural disasters.

"That was a surprise," Azizul Islam, director development research and policy analysis at ESCAP, said

Tuesday. "Last year, we knew there would be more growth there, but this was significant."

The country was buoyed by a 16 per cent boom in its industrial sector and 10.2 per cent in services, the survey found.

ESCAP also found a flurry of financial sector reforms among the so-called "transition nations" — small countries moving up in status.

"The conventional wisdom has been that countries of lower status shouldn't focus on finance, but concentrate on areas such as industry. Apparently the demonstration in developing countries has led others to follow the example."

Vietnam may have benefited most from such actions. The formerly isolated country has dragged its annual inflation rate down from more than 75 per cent in 1991 to 12 per cent last year, in part through currency reforms.

But ESCAP's acting executive secretary, Seiko Takahashi, qualified Asia's economic success by noting that "the region remains beset with many social problems."

Georgia presses on economic reforms

TBILISI (AFP) — The former Soviet republic of Georgia intends to press on with economic reforms despite great current problems in balancing its budget this year, Economics Minister Vladimir Papavas said.

In an interview with AFP, he said the government had fallen far behind its revenue targets for the first quarter of 1995 because of unrealistic expectations when the budget

was passed in January.

"We were unable to collect the receipts we had expected from taxes and the sale of electricity and gas and even bread," Mr. Papavas said.

As a result, Georgia has delayed paying budgeted expenses. Workers in some state industries have not been paid for months, and the country's foreign energy bill is mounting.

The 1995 budget is re-

garded here as evidence of President Eduard Shevardnadze's commitment to tight monetary policies and market reforms.

Georgia has one of the most troubled economies among countries of the former Soviet Union.

It received support of \$75 million from the International Monetary Fund in March and is hoping for more such help in the future.

But despite its current crash crunch, Georgia plans to continue with structural reforms to help woo IMF support, Mr. Papavas said.

He said the government intended to stop covering the energy expenses of companies and households, which is a steady drain on public finances because businesses and local authorities have not been paying their gas bills.

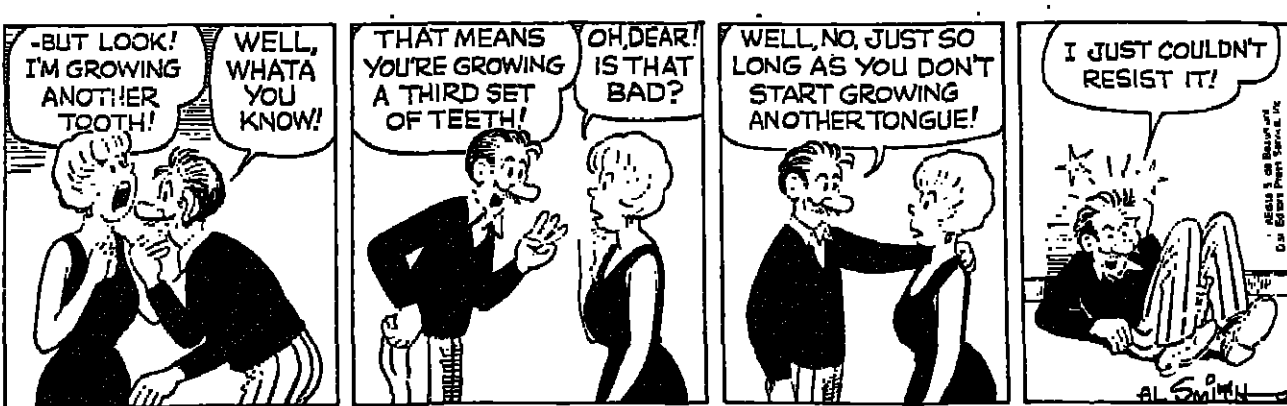
Peanuts



Andy Capp

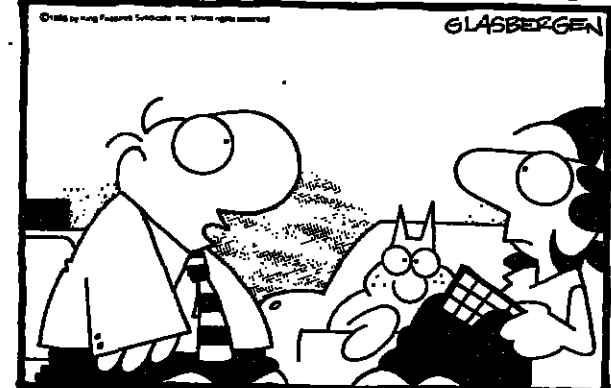


Mutt'n'Jeff



Jordan Times Tel.: 667171

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Point the VCR controller at my brain. See if you can erase everything that happened today between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM!"

JUMBLE. by Henri Arnold and Mike Argison

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POURC
TREEB
FORFET
DOAZIC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O O" IN THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABBOT ELOPE RAVAGE JURIST

Answer: What a customer can do in a shoe repair shop — BARE HIS SOLE

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A private worry can upset you in the morning, but tonight you can be with charming persons and be happy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take no risks where money matters are concerned today. Then later tonight you can get out to new sites with those who are charming.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) In the morning, you could have an argument with your mate if you go out for pleasure so be together for fun tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't involve yourself in some disagreement between a family tie and an outsider and go after some benefits which are coming.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't leave your tasks for some outside affair in the morning, or you could lose a good deal. Later you will be happy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Wait until tonight to have a good time and come to far better terms with partners during today for a greater success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle that situation at home on a better day than today, but later tonight get your environment in far better order.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This morning is fine for working away at duties you have assumed and later you can enjoy recreational activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your mind is pretty much on home and family this morning. Have guests into your home tonight and have a wonderful time.

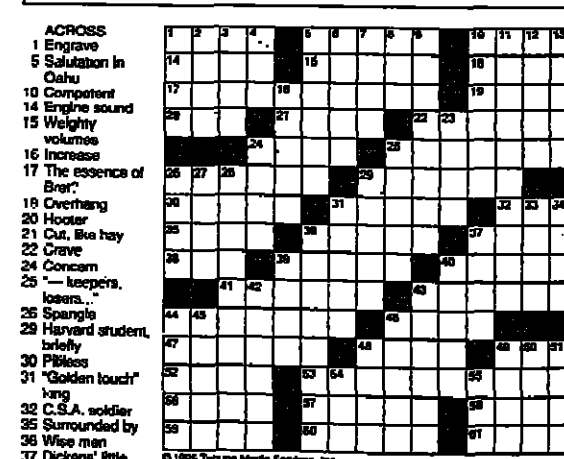
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use tact in dealing with partners this morning, but later tonight you can have better understanding due to planetary positions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Refrain from making changes in investments this morning, but tonight you know what is best to do about them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Restrictive conditions are present this morning, but tonight you can make better plans for the future.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins



ACROSS
1 Engrave
5 Solution in Cuba
10 Competent
14 Engine sound
15 Wholly volume
17 Increase
17 The essence of Brit
18 Overhang
20 House
21 Out, like hay
22 Drive
24 Concern
25 "keepers, looms,..."
26 Sample
26 Harvard student, briefly
30 Pillbox
31 "Golden lough" lake
32 C.S.A. soldier
35 Surrounded by
36 Wide men
37 Doctor's little heroines

DOWN
3 Fiercely
39 Famed violin, for short
40 Renter's agreement
41 Cream puff
42 Drunkard
43 Gentry rank
43 Gownless, e.g.
47 Carve
48 Pub meal
49 Visitor over T.E.D.
52 Follow closely
53 Stereop
54 watch?
55 Informal leisure
56 Party points
56 Signalled
56 Lost color
56 Stung
57 Follow closely
58 Field of study
58 M.L. unit
60 Heaped
61 Gaiters

39 Cardless mistake
40 Plunder
42 Waste glass
43 Darts
44 Founders' altar
45 La —, after

46 NGO
48 Use a phone
49 Empty
50 Observed
51 Star's need
54 Greek letter
55 Cushion

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Israeli firm applies to invest at eastern shore of Dead Sea

AMMAN — Jordan is ready to offer attractive terms to foreign companies interested in exploring for oil in the Kingdom and several firms are studying the possibilities of taking up the Jordanian offer, according to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazah.

"We are trying to make the offers more palatable, more acceptable" to international oil companies interested in Jordan, the minister said in a recent interview.

Jordan is offering production sharing agreements — meaning that the companies could come in with their own funds and start exploration in designated areas under specific contracts and if and when they find oil of commercial quantities the government and the concerned company would share the output of the find.

The share of the successful company will depend on the quantity of oil found, said Mr. Darwazah. "If the quantity is low, then their share will be high, to cover their expenses... profits... (and) if the quantity is high then their share will be little bit less."

International oil companies "have started looking at the information that we have provided," he said. "They evaluate the information, go back and make the decision to whether to come to Jordan."

Jordan ready to offer attractive terms to foreign oil companies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is ready to offer attractive terms to foreign companies interested in exploring for oil in the Kingdom and several firms are studying the possibilities of taking up the Jordanian offer, according to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazah.

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International oil companies "have started looking at the information that we have provided," he said. "They evaluate the information, go back and make the decision to whether to come to Jordan."

In nearly a decade of exploration work, no company has been able to locate oil in commercial quantities in Jordan. But oil industry sources and Jordanian officials believe that there is oil in the Kingdom and it is only a matter of locating it.

Optimists point out that Jordan neighbours oil giants Saudi Arabia and Iraq as well as Syria, which is emerging as a sizeable producer of oil and gas, and say that geology dictates that Jordan should have commercial quantities of hydrocarbons.

The U.S. Hunt Oil Company, the American oil company, and Belgium's Petrofina were among international firms which came to Jordan after hopes were raised in mid-80s when oil deposits were discovered in the northeast, near the border with Iraq. But then it was found that the deposits were very limited. At the height of production, the wells yielded up to 600 barrels per day, but now the output there is insignificant.

Mr. Darwazah noted that "at least 12 companies dug more than 100 wells" in various parts of Jordan under different agreements, but no one of the finds was commercially promising.

A Korean company is currently exploring some areas



Samih Darwazah

of Jordan while Natural Resources Authority (NRA) is conducting limited exploration work in other areas.

Mr. Darwazah said there were "good signs" near the Dead Sea as well as areas near the border with Syria but the government was not in a position to invest in oil exploration.

"Quite simply, the government does not have the capability to do it," said the minister, noting that a new state-owned company with a capital of JD 20 million was being set up to take charge of oil and gas exploration.

The company, expected to take off in July, could make joint ventures with foreign companies with a view to making up for the shortfall in investments as well as equipment and technology, noted the minister.

Mr. Darwazah conceded that locating oil of commercial quantities in Jordan was proving to be a difficult task. "We seem to have so many (seismological) splits that have changed the geology of the area."

Notwithstanding the disappointing results so far, he noted, the fact that small quantities of oil found in different spots clearly indicate that there is oil in Jordan.

"There are very good signs that there is oil under the Dead Sea," he said. "But I think most companies are hesitating to dig or do exploration work there because studies show that there is a huge layer of salt before reaching oil."

"It will be costly in terms of the technologies available today," he said. "We hope there will be a company with the right technology that could be used in an economic way to dig through the salt."

In some spots, it was found that oil lies under 3,000 metres of salt, he added.

Jordan needs about 60,000 barrels of crude oil and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil every day. Iraq, whose oil exports are blocked under U.N. sanctions, supplies the needs trucked overland to the Kingdom under an exemption granted by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Jordan and Iraq are currently studying building a pipeline to pump Iraqi oil to the Zarga refinery.

The first part of the pipeline will be about 600 kilometres in length; at a later stage, when Jordan builds another refinery at Aqaba, the pipeline will be extended by 350 kilometres to the Red Sea port.

The cost of the entire pipeline — which will have a daily pumping capacity of 250,000 barrels of oil — was estimated at \$1.4 billion; an estimate to carry the first part of the pipeline — to carry 100,000 barrels of oil from Haditha in Iraq to Zarga — was not available immediately.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 18/04/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	TRADED	VALUE	PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	700	134720	103,000	147.14
BANK OF JORDAN	2050	7803	3,850	1.875
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	15300	24174	1,580	1.032
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5050	14444	2,870	1.365
THE HOUSING BANK	60000	480362	7,900	8.000
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	7519	22159	2,920	2.950
JORDAN GULF BANK	46625	69114	1,450	1.480
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	119420	490531	4,060	4.090
BUSINESS BANK	1400	5172	3,620	2.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1650	7825	3,360	3.360
BEIT KHALA SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2650	8935	3,310	3.400
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	174387	241544	1,370	1.380
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1000	4063	4,080	4.100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	40683	82660	2,040	1.990
BANKS SECTOR	844734	2336892	INDEX NUMBER: 169.44	CHANGE: +0.072
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	14670	26073	1,850	1.850
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	48450	137010	2,740	2.830
DELTA INSURANCE	10000	24000	2,500	2.400
INSURANCE SECTOR	73120	137082	INDEX NUMBER: 159.63	CHANGE: +0.41
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5150	8596	1,650	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	4000	6280	1,550	1.570
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	533496	384171	7,100	7.150
IRAB DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1057	137	1,130	7.850
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	650	4489	1,000	6.950
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	3000	9873	3,360	3.360
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	4050	10025	2,480	2.480
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1000	173	1,150	1.550
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	2000	1320	660	1.520
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	30208	81854	2,700	2.770
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	6687	22405	3,300	3.300
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	750	960	1,260	1.280
SERVICES SECTOR	591182	3968355	INDEX NUMBER: 151.66	CHANGE: +0.11
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2050	2358	1,140	1.150
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	38487	14995	3,090	3.090
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3040	5442	2,620	2.700
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	400	2190	5,250	5.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9760	91747	9,360	9.400
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	58	309	3,610	3.610
THE JORDAN HORSESHOE MILLS	250	2063	8,350	8.250
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	8716	36137	4,140	4.180
SPINNING & WEAVING	8850	23005	2,820	2.830
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	6250	15695	2,500	2.510
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3350	26638	7,950	7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	52200	48110	1,950	1.950
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	500	3575	7,170	7.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	62900	43412	1,680	1.700
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	131800	213064	1,600	1.620
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	2250	7093	3,100	3.150
INTERSTATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	120676	120676	1,190	1.190
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	1650	2223	1,190	1.200
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	840	4,200	4.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	700	183	690	1.550
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	200	954	4,750	4.770
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	6400	11790	1,760	1.760
JORDAN CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	3450	8245	2,370	2.370
KARMA INVESTMENT	500	652	1,450	1.450
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4050	14655	3,590	3.610
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	7950	15846	2,000	2.000
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	395013	816290	INDEX NUMBER: 127.15	CHANGE: +0.01
GRAND TOTAL	1904047	7328622	INDEX NUMBER: 145.7	CHANGE: +0.11
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 389495				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 127786				

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close (17/4/95)	Tel Aviv Close (17/4/95)
Sterling Pound	1.6240	1.6150**
Deutsche Mark	1.3670	1.3605
Swiss Franc	1.1265	1.1250**
French Franc	4.7775	4.7848**
Japanese Yen	82.00	81.53
European Currency Unit	1.3458	1.3447**

* Unit Per STD
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Source: Currency Exchange Rates

Currency	1 MTR	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.06	6.31
Sterling Pound	6.00	6.31	6.68	7.18
Deutsche Mark	4.12	4.32	4.50	4.75
Swiss Franc	3.18	3.18	3.25	3.43
French Franc	7.37	7.25	6.67	6.64
Japanese Yen	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
European Currency Unit	6.00	6.15	6.25	6.43

Source: Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Commodity	Unit	Price
Gold	USD/oz	384.20
Silver	USD/oz	7.60
Platinum	USD/oz	5.67

Source: Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6820	0.6840
Sterling Pound	1.1047	1.1102
Deutsche Mark	0.4925	0.5002
Swiss Franc	0.6044	0.6078
French Franc	0.1424	0.1451
Japanese Yen	0.8344	0.8386
Dutch Guilder	0.4447	0.4469
Swedish Krona	0.0403	0.0405
Hellen Lira	0.0403	0.0405
Belgian Franc	0.0403	0.0405

Source: Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7940	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	0.04100	0.04170
Saudi Riyal	0.1815	0.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3610
Qatari Riyal	0.1842	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2080
Omani Riyal	1.7530	1.7760
UAE Dirham	0.1851	0.1882
Greek Drachma	0.2900	0.3100
Cypriot Pound	1.4800	1.5800

Source: Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3690/00	Canadian dollar
	1.3652/62	Deutschemarks
	1.5282/92	Dutch guilders
	1.1256/66	Swiss francs
	28.05/09	Belgian francs
	4.7908/58	French francs
	1698.8/3.8	Italian lire
	81.40/50	Japanese yen
	7.2850/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1330/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.3733/83	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6190/00	
One ounce of gold	\$394.25/394.75	

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AC Milan favoured to gain Champions Cup final again

PARIS (AFP) — AC Milan look set to complete an amazing turnaround and make their third successive European Cup final following Wednesday's semi-final against Paris Saint Germain.

In November, they only just qualified for the European Cup quarter-finals. They then lost to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield in the Intercontinental Cup and were beaten in the Italian Cup — apart from poor form in the league.

But Zvonimir Boban's 89th minute goal for a 1-0 win against PSG in the first leg gives an optimistic hue to Milan's end of season.

In other competitions, Parma host Bayer Leverkusen with a 2-1 lead and Borussia Dortmund entertain Juventus with the match poised at 2-2 in Tuesday's UEFA Cup semi-finals.

Arsenal travel to Sampdoria with a 3-2 lead in their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final on Thursday. Real Zaragoza travel to Chelsea with a 3-0 advantage the same night.

PSG are helped by the suspension of Alessandro Costacurta, who fouled David Ginola with a quarter-hour to go in Paris, for the San Siro leg.

But Costacurta's omission in crucial ties has not always been a major handicap for club and country.

He missed last season's 4-0 final win over Barcelona and the World Cup final — where Italy only lost to Brazil on penalties.

On statistics, PSG have a mission impossible in Milan

as they try to overturn the 1-0 deficit and make the May 24 final in Vienna.

In 40 years of European cup football, AC Milan have never been knocked out of a competition on their own ground, after having won the away leg.

But PSG's fightback to draw 1-1 at Barcelona, and again surging from behind to win 2-1 in the return, has proved their battling qualities.

Antoine Kombouare will be back after being suspended for the first leg.

PSG warmed up with a 3-0 thrashing of Montpellier on Friday without first teamers Ricardo and Valdo of Brazil. Vincent Guerin, Paul Le Guen, David Ginola and George Weah.

Milan, however, fell 3-1 against Inter Milan, their third loss in four matches against their fellow tenants at the San Siro.

A PSG loss would mean skipper Alain Roche has lost five European semi-finals — three with PSG and once with Bordeaux and Marseille — without ever experiencing a final.

Ajax Amsterdam, who host Bayern Munich, are favourites to win this tie between two clubs who won the event three times running.

Ajax, who won from 1971 to 1973 earned a creditable 0-0 draw at the Olympic Stadium against the 1974 to 1976 winners. But Ajax have scored 18 league goals in their last three league games before the April 16/17

weekend, which is an ominous statistic for Bayern.

And Ajax coach Luis Van Gaal said: "In our camp nobody is worried. I am convinced we will reach the final."

For Ajax, Frank de Boer is suspended. But Munich have a much more serious selection problem.

Hansi Fliugler, who is 36, retired from football and works in Bayern's souvenir shop, has been called up into the squad because of Giovanni Trapattoni's dilemma. He could even take charge of the defence.

The majority of Bayern's star players are on the injury list — Lothar Matthaus, Oliver Kahn, Jean-Pierre Papin, Marcel Witeczek, Emil Kostadinov, and skipper Thomas Helmer.

In Thursday's Cup Winners' Cup, holders Arsenal still have a chance to become the first side to retain the trophy.

They visit Sampdoria with a 3-2 lead, but should the Londoners eventually lose, they could blame sublime skill from Roberto Mancini. Mancini's superb backheel to wrongfoot the Arsenal defence set up Serb Vladimir Jugovic for a late goal in the first leg. That move may prove for Sampdoria in obtaining their ticket to the May 10 final in Paris.

Jugovic was a key player in the great Red Star Belgrade side until civil war broke up Yugoslavia.

Graf improves her grip on No. 1

MIAMI (Agencies) — Steffi Graf improved her hold on the world number one ranking, improving her lead to more than 20 points in the latest WTA Tour rankings release here Monday.

The German star remained unbeaten this year and won her fourth tour title of 1995 by beating Asa Carlsson of Sweden on Sunday in the final at Houston.

The victory improved Graf's points average to 319.07 compared to 296.72 for idle Arantxa Sanchez of Spain.

U.S. veteran Amy Frazier made the only rise among the top 20 player, jumping two places to 16th after beating eighth-ranked Kimiko Date in the Japan Open finals.

1. Steffi Graf	319.07 pts
2. Arantxa Sanchez	296.72
3. Mary Pierce	235.36
4. Conchita Martinez	203.75
5. Jana Novotna	174.97
6. Lindsay Davenport	146.77
7. Gabriela Sabatini	134.66
8. Kimiko Date	122.40
9. Magdalena Maleeva	121.17
10. Natasha Zvereva	104.41
11. Andre Buzar	103.43
12. Mary Jo Fernandez	94.62
13. Iva Majoli	83.66
14. Brenda Schultz	81.47
15. Naoko Sawamatsu	79.80
16. Amy Frazier	74.95
17. Lori McNeil	68.36
18. Julie Halard	67.13
19. Amanda Coetzer	63.02
20. Helena Sukova	59.50

Agassi fined after late withdrawal

In Hong Kong, world No. 1 Andre Agassi was fined \$5,000 by the ATP tour on Monday after his late withdrawal from Hong Kong Open tournament with a back injury.

The American's absence leaves defending champion Michael Chang as the top seed and the Chinese-American begins his defence with a first round encounter with Switzerland's Jacob Hlasek on Tuesday.

American Jim Courier, who defeated Agassi to win the Japan Open on Sunday, meets Yoon Yong-il of South Korea in his first round match also on Tuesday.

Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, the highest-ranked seed in action on the first day on Monday, strolled into the second round with a 6-1 6-1 win over Luis Herrera of Mexico.

The fourth-seeded Enqvist, whose tournament victories in Auckland and Philadelphia this year have seen him rise to 20 in the world rankings, proved far too powerful for the Mexican qualifier.



American IBF heavyweight champion George Foreman (right) faces a sparring partner during a boxing training in Las Vegas. Foreman will fight German challenger Axel Schultz for the world champion title on April 22 (AFP photo)

Orlando claim Atlantic Division title

ORLANDO (AP) — Orlando claimed the Atlantic Division title as well as the top seeding in the Eastern Conference playoffs with a 111-100 victory over Washington on Monday night.

Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points, 12 rebounds and four blocked shots as the Magic survived a fourth-quarter rally to improve to 38-2 at Orlando arena and assure itself the homecourt advantage through the conference finals.

The victory was only the second in the last six games for Orlando as it had lost 14 of its last 18 road games, including five straight.

The Bullets, who beat Milwaukee to snap a 13-game losing streak Saturday, lost for the 14th time in 15 games. Chris Webber, Juwan Howard and Gheorghe Muresan each had 21 points and Doug Overton finished with 20.

Dennis Scott's 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the

opening quarter started a 17-0 run that enabled the Magic to open a 46-27 lead. Washington trailed 64-44 at halftime and showed no sign of coming back until Orlando missed 10 of its first 11 shots in the fourth quarter.

Hornets 101, 76ers 90: In Philadelphia, Greg Sutton scored 16 points and Larry Johnson had all of his 15 in the second half as Charlotte Hornets moved within one game of Indiana in the race for first place in the central division.

Sutton, making his second start of the season in place of the injured Muggsy Bogues

(straight hamstring), had a career-high seven assists, while Darrin Hancock had 15 points, also a career-high, for Charlotte.

Sharonne Wright had 22 points and Shawn Bradley 18 to lead Philadelphia.

Charlotte led 89-82 with 5:33 to play, then scored seven straight points to lead 96-82 on a driving layup by Sutton with 3:17 remaining. Philadelphia never got closer than 11 the rest of the way.

Bucks 99, Knicks 93: In New York, Vin Baker scored 10 straight fourth-quarter points and finished with 28 and 13 rebounds as the Bucks kept

alive their slim playoff hopes. Baker hit 11 of 18 shots and played 47 minutes as Milwaukee swept the season series.

The Knicks, coming off a 111-90 loss at Chicago that broke a five-game winning streak, looked sluggish playing their fourth game in five days.

Patrick Ewing had 14 points, only two in the fourth quarter.

Rookie Glenn Robinson, averaging 22 points in his previous three games against New York, had 12 in the third quarter and finished with 27 but missed eight of 13 field goal attempts.

Bulls 98, Heat 93: In Miami, Michael Jordan scored 31 points, including four free throws in the final minute, and contained Glen Rice to 12 points as the Heat were eliminated from the playoff race.

Rice scored a franchise-record 56 Saturday against Orlando. He missed 12 of 18 shots against the Bulls.

Rookie Khalid Reeves scored a season-high 27 points for Miami, but Chicago won its fourth straight by outscoring the Heat 8-0 in the final 2:27.

Jordan hit two free throws with 40 seconds left to give Chicago a 95-93 lead. Reeves missed with 24 seconds left, and Chicago's Steve Kerr hit one of two free throws. Miami's Brad Lohaus missed a 3-point attempt and Jordan hit two free throws to clinch the win.

Celtics 96, Nets 96: In Boston, Dee Brown scored 18 points and five other Celtics finished in double figures as the Celtics won for the eighth time in nine games.

The Celtics, who were held scoreless over the game's final 2:46, can clinch the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff berth with a win or Milwaukee loss.

Dino Radja added 16 points for Boston, while Derek Strong had 14, Dominique Wilkins and Sherman Douglas 13 each and Greg Minor 10.

Armon Gilliam paced New Jersey with 25 points and 14 rebounds. P.J. Brown scored 9 points and grabbed 17 rebounds and Kenny Anderson added 19 points.

Rockets 121, Clippers 111: In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 30 points and didn't miss a field goal until the fourth quarter, finishing 14-for-18 from the field.

The Clippers haven't won a game in the summit since a 104-97 victory on Nov. 6, 1986, a 17-game streak.

Olajuwon hit his first 11 shots of the game and didn't miss until his first shot in the fourth quarter in his third game back since recovering from iron-deficiency anemia.

The Clippers, down 98-88 going into the fourth quarter, pulled within 103-99 with 6:55 to go before the Rockets pulled away.

Terry Dehere led the Clippers with 23 points and Piatkowski had 19.

Ndeti wins 3rd straight Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AFP) — Kenya's Cosmas Ndeti won his third straight Boston Marathon here Monday, joining U.S. runners Bill Rodgers and Clarence DeMar as the only men to capture the event three times in a row.

Ndeti's unofficial time Monday was two hours, nine minutes and 22 seconds — 2:06 slower than the course record he set last year.

"I was strong," Ndeti said. "The Lord was always renewing my strength."

Fellow Kenyan Moses Tanui was second, 60 seconds behind the winner, in only his third marathon race. Tanui, 29, was 10th in both prior

efforts, including here last year and the 1993 New York Marathon. Brazil's Luiz Antonio Dos Santos was third.

Germany's Uta Pippig won her second straight Boston women's crown in an unofficial time of 2:25:11, making this the first time men and women have defended titles here.

"It was such a great race," Pippig said. "It was a little bit warm. It was nice. I had a little blister on my foot. But that's the marathoner's problem sometimes."

Pippig took the early lead and stayed in front to capture the women's title. South

Africa's Elena Mayer was second.

Pippig was well off the course record of 2:21:45 she set last year. Pippig also won her second straight Kyoto Marathon earlier this year.

Ndeti, 25, joins Bill Rodgers, who won here from 1978-1980, and Clarence DeMar, who took a record seven Boston titles including a sweep from 1922-1924. Ndeti won the 1993 race, in only his second marathon outing ever, in 2:09:33 before setting the standard last year.

Ndeti had struggled through recent races, developing a blister and failing to finish last October's Chicago Marathon and running slow last month in a half-marathon in Portugal.

Ndeti and his wife named their son Gideon Boston after his triumph here. The boy was born two days before Ndeti's first triumph here. A visa mixup prevented Gideon from attending this year's race, where a second birthday party had been planned Monday. So he remained home in Kenya with his mother and baby sister.

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Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Bruce Willis & John Travolta in PULP FICTION Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Comedian star: Adel Imam - Bakhit & Andadilleh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Dam STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammed Al Shawaqfa daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday - Hala Al Agha in the children's play ★ ★ Sa'di's Return ★ ★		COMING SOON The Comedy Show CABARET		Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sunday.	

Israel expels 2 Palestinians to Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israel expelled two Palestinians, one of them after 25 years in jail, to South Lebanon but Lebanese troops refused them entry into government-controlled areas, U.N. sources said on Tuesday.

They said Khamis Khodor, 58, and Mohammad Al Joulani, 27, were expelled by Israel on Monday but were barred by Lebanese soldiers at Harma crossing point from entering government territories from Israel's South Lebanon border occupation zone.

The two men, who belong to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group and hold Jordanian passports, were then put in custody of U.N. peacekeepers in South Lebanon, the sources said.

"They just showed up and said they had been deported by Israel," Timur Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said. "We are just hoping they won't be with us for the next several years."

Mr. Goksel said the Israeli army and the International Committee of the Red Cross had been contacted about the

men. But he said the United Nations had yet to hear back from the Israeli army.

Khodor had been in jail since he was arrested in 1970 in Israel while attempting to set off a bomb, the sources said.

Joulani had been serving a 13-year prison term in Israel since 1986 for taking part in a guerrilla raid from Jordan.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said: "Two Palestinians, citizens of Jordan, who spent a number of years in jail here, were expelled to Lebanon."

Mr. Ben-Ami said he did not know why the two men were deported to Lebanon. He said the Israeli army would issue a statement, but an army spokesman said they had nothing to release yet.

Security sources in Lebanon said Israel first tried to expel the two men to Jordan, but dumped them in South Lebanon after the Amman government refused them entry.

In 1992, after an Israeli policeman was killed by guerrillas, Israel expelled to South Lebanon 415 Palesti-

nians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip whom it accused of being militants.

Lebanon refused them entry and most of the men were stranded in a rugged no-man's land just north of the South Lebanon occupation zone for up to a year before Israel, under international criticism, took them back.

Since then, Israel has expelled several Arabs whom it said entered Palestinian self-rule areas without its authorization. But no long-term Palestinian residents of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or prisoners had been expelled.

Khodor and Joulani were driven in an Israeli army jeep to the Hamra crossing, near the port city of Tyre, between the Israeli-occupied zone of South Lebanon and the rest of the country.

They walked five kilometres to a Lebanese army checkpoint but were turned back. UNIFIL took charge of the men on their return.

The men told the Associated Press they spent most of their sentences in a prison near Beersheba in southern Israel.

Joulani said that last Thursday he and Khamis were taken blindfolded and handcuffed to the Jordanian border.

But he said he overheard an Israeli officer saying Jordan had refused to accept them.

They were returned to prison and taken to the Israeli-occupied sector in South Lebanon Monday.

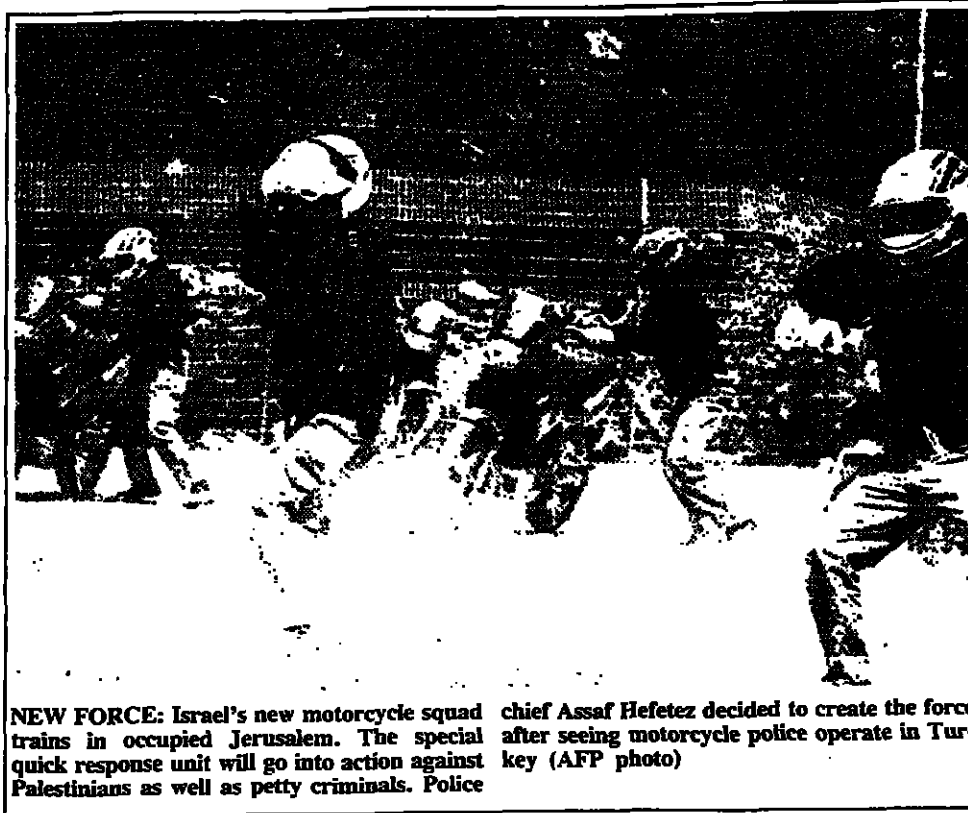
There was no explanation why the men were not released in the Palestinian self-rule area in the Gaza Strip, which Mr. Arafat controls.

Both men said they wanted to go to Jordan, with Tunisia as a second choice, insisting they do not want to be sent back to Israel.

"If that doesn't work out, let the Red Cross take me to Switzerland," said the bearded Khodor, who has not seen his two children in more than 20 years.

The slim, bearded Joulani said he respected the Beirut government's decision not to let them stay in Lebanon.

"We don't want to force ourselves on any country," he said.



NEW FORCE: Israel's new motorcycle squad chief Assaf Hefetz decided to create the force trains in occupied Jerusalem. The special after seeing motorcycle police operate in Turkey quick response unit will go into action against key (AFP photo) Palestinians as well as petty criminals. Police

Rafsanjani urges greater Asian cooperation; U.S. voices concern

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called on India and its Muslim neighbours Pakistan and Bangladesh on Tuesday to strengthen their cooperation to provide stability in South Asia.

The Iranian leader, speaking under tight security at a mosque in the northern city of Lucknow, said Iran wanted peace on the subcontinent and would assist India and neighbouring countries in maintaining stability.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin meanwhile told India the United States had "extremely strong concern" about Iran, which Washington has branded as an outlaw nation.

Mr. Rubin and Mr. Rafsanjani were both in India on official visits.

Mr. Rafsanjani met Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Monday, and Mr. Rubin voiced U.S. concern about Iran in a meeting with the Indian leader on Tuesday.

"Although it is outside my purview, I did not mention (to Rao)... the extremely strong concern of our government (about Iran)," Mr. Rubin told reporters in the Indian capital.

Washington has branded Iran an "outlaw nation," accusing it of sponsoring "terrorism," fomenting trouble in the region and trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

Mr. Rubin said he would have postponed his visit to India if he had known long enough ahead of time that Mr. Rafsanjani would be in the country at the same time.

"If we had known in a timely fashion, we would have rescheduled," said Mr. Rubin.

U.S. officials said they learned of Mr. Rafsanjani's visit only last Friday. The Iranian leader landed in New Delhi on Monday, a few hours before Mr. Rubin arrived for his four-day visit.

Mr. Rubin said he did not press India to avoid deepening ties with Iran but simply expressed America's strong concern about the country.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying in Lucknow that peace and stability could only be ensured through "mutual friendship and cooperation" between predominantly Hindu India and Pakistan and Bangladesh.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 and are locked in a dispute over Kashmir.

PTI said the Indian leader, without identifying any individuals or groups by name, denounced those who exploited religious sentiments to sow distrust and hatred in India, which has a Muslim population of some 120 million.

Mr. Rafsanjani is the first Iranian head of state to visit India since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Security was tight, the news agency said, after a local Shiite cleric announced plans to stage protests against Mr. Rafsanjani's visit.

The local cleric, who criticised a ban by Iranian religious authorities on the use of knives and swords for self-mutilation during religious mourning, was put in preventive custody by the police.

The Iranian president returned to New Delhi following a four-hour visit to Lucknow, an ancient seat of Islamic learning and a capital of

an erstwhile Muslim kingdom.

Mr. Rafsanjani, basking in a warm reception in the Indian capital, said on Monday that Tehran and New Delhi should forge closer links and together maintain regional security.

India, emerging as a major business and political ally of isolated Iran, has offered Mr. Rafsanjani help in beefing up Tehran's arsenal, officials said on Tuesday.

India and Iran were expected to sign six agreements on Tuesday, including a proposed gas pipeline from Iran to India, transit trade through Iran to Central Asia and steps on controlling drug trafficking.

On Monday Secretary of State Warren Christopher raised U.S. concerns over Chinese plans to sell nuclear reactors to Iran, saying any nuclear cooperation with Tehran was too dangerous to justify.

"This is further evidence of exactly the kind of problems we have with Iran," Mr. Rubin said in New Delhi.

A senior U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, said it was unlikely that Iran and India would strike any major economic agreement, saying Iran did not have much money and India had little credit to offer.

He also expressed doubts about the ability of the two nations to reach agreement on a pipeline. "That would be very difficult to accomplish," he said.

Tehran would like the pipeline to pass through Pakistan, which lies between Iran and India, but New Delhi would like the gas link to go under the Arabian sea.

India does not want a pipeline vulnerable to Pakistan.



Briton faces judgement in child sex case

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A Briton charged with organising child sex tourism in Asia faces a maximum of one year in prison if he is found guilty by a Belgian court Wednesday.

John Stamford, the British publisher of the Gay travel guide Spartacus, went on trial in the northern town of Turnhout last year after campaigners against child abuse and slavery compelled enough evidence to bring an action against him.

The four organisations involved in the case, led by Swiss human rights group Terre Des Hommes, claim that Spartacus, an ostensibly innocent guide, is a front for an information network designed to direct European paedophiles to cheap child sex throughout Asia. Published by Stamford in Amsterdam since 1970, Spartacus has editions in five languages and sells an estimated 60,000 copies per year.

Readers are invited to join the associated Spartacus Club, which according to Terre Des Hommes plays the central role in Mr. Stamford's network. On joining, readers gain access to Mr. Stamford's research on holiday destinations detailing where, how and for what price children can be procured for sex. In one document obtained by Terre Des Hommes, Mr. Stamford regales readers with a tale of a brothel in Manila offering "boys of every age, shape and type."

"Between January and May 1978, I personally tested lots of these boys and recommended some to Spartacus readers," Mr. Stamford allegedly wrote. During the trial, one witness cited an acquaintance of Mr. Stamford as saying Mr. Stamford had appeared in a pornographic video in which two Filipino children were sexually abused and then strangled.

Mr. Stamford has only been charged however with the relatively minor offences of incitement to sexual exploitation and publishing indecent material. The public prosecutor has demanded the maximum one year sentence, but advocates for the groups which brought the case have argued that the court should declare the issues involved beyond its jurisdiction and call for a new trial in a higher court.

World War II ex-PoW recovers distance of forced marches

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Graham Cousins got the idea of commemorating his own private hell from World War II by watching the D-Day anniversary of television last June. Amid all the allied veterans revisiting the bloody landing beaches of Normandy, "there was some young chap pedalling a glider across the English Channel," Cousins recalled. "They said he had to pedal six kilometres an hour to keep it going."

Mr. Cousins said, "I thought, 'I can walk that fast. Why not?' No, the retired old man didn't try crossing the channel on foot. Rather, the 75-year-old laced on a pair of hiking boots five weeks ago and trekked 640 kilometres (400 miles) across northern South Africa, equalling the distance he crossed in the war's last winter as a prisoner of war in Germany. He ended his trek Monday, his "finish line" the gates of a Johannesburg Trade Show where he was greeted by military officials and a handful of surviving PoWs, part of the few hundred South Africans left alive of the tens of thousands who volunteered to fight for Britain in World War II. Mr. Cousins was one of some 10,000 South African troops captured in June 1942 when German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke the vital Mediterranean city of Tobruk. The port, whose defenders became popularly known as the "desert rats," had held out for a year of siege. Mr. Cousins, a signaller, and the others were shipped to POW camps in eastern Germany. As the Red Army pressed from Poland toward Germany in January 1945, the Germans pushed some quarter-million allied PoWs onto the wintry roads to keep them from being liberated and fighting again.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Darwazeh heads for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh left for Cairo, heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of an Arab League energy ministers council due to convene on Wednesday. Mr. Darwazeh, who will chair the two-day meetings, said the council will discuss projects to link the national electric grids of Arab countries and exchange expertise and information.

Spain to reestablish presence in Iraq

MADRID (AFP) — Spain is to send a diplomat to its embassy in Iraq at the beginning of May, the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry said Tuesday. The representative, who will be considered a "technical advisor," holds a diplomatic passport but is not "a career diplomat." He will be based in the Spanish embassy in Baghdad and will take responsibility for administrative and consular questions, ministry officials said. According to Tuesday's edition of El Pais, Spain and France decided last December, during a meeting of top civil servants in Paris, to reestablish a diplomatic presence in Iraq. The newspaper El Mundo claimed Spanish companies, especially construction companies interested in participating in projects in Iraq, have put pressure on the Spanish government for several months to send a representative to Baghdad. On March 1 in Baghdad, Paris opened an "interest section."

Mubarak meets with Utah senator

CAIRO (AP) — Senator Robert F. Bennett of Utah met Tuesday with President Hosni Mubarak for talks on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States. Mr. Bennett, who is in Cairo on a private visit, told reporters his meeting with Mr. Mubarak went well. Osama Al Baz, head of Mr. Mubarak's political office, said that the two men discussed economic cooperation in various fields including tourism, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, whose renewal is being debated before the United Nations. Egypt has said it will not vote for renewing the treaty unless Israel joins the pact, which has strained Egyptian relations with the United States and the Jewish State. Negotiations have been going on to see if Egypt will change its stance against signing. "President Mubarak told him (Sen. Bennett) that Egypt's position on the NPT will be decided by our interpretation of the developments happening in this field," Dr. Baz said.

Canadian stays in jail in AMF case

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) court has ordered a Canadian to stay in jail on charges of embezzling nearly \$80 million from the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), court sources said Tuesday. The Abu Dhabi court rejected defence appeals to release Mahdi Saleh Bahrululim, who faces the charges along with three other former top AMF officials, and decided to keep him in jail after a two-hour hearing on Monday. The hearing, the third since the defendant was extradited from Lebanon in November, was adjourned until May 29. Lebanon handed over Mr. Bahrululim, who is of Iraqi origin, to serve a 75-year prison sentence issued by an Abu Dhabi court in his absence in 1987 after it found him guilty of embezzlement charges. But he objected to the verdict on the grounds he was not officially informed. Although the prosecution argued that publication of the sentence in the official media amounted to formal notification, the authorities decided on a re-trial.

Police kill three militants in Aswan area

CAIRO (AFP) — Police shot dead three armed militants in a clash in the Aswan region of southern Egypt, police said Tuesday. The militants, members of the outlawed Gamaa Al Islamiyah group, were hiding in sugar cane fields near Kom Ombo, some 830 kilometres south of Cairo, when the clash took place late Monday. Two of the militants were identified as Sabri Ahmad Yousef and Mustapha Mortada Mustapha. Police said they were involved in several attacks on police in the Aswan region and smuggled arms into Egypt from Sudan. Police found an assault rifle, a pistol, a home-made bomb and leaflets on the scene. Kom Ombo is the site of a famous ancient temple dating back to the reign of Ptolemy.

Egypt, Israel to cooperate in health care

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and Israel are to launch close cooperation in health care, Israeli Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said Tuesday after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He said Mr. Mubarak had backed the idea of "pursuing ways to start and strengthen cooperation between the two countries. 'There are a lot of experiences to be exchanged and there are many things to start together.' Mr. Sneh, on the first official visit by an Israeli health minister to Egypt since the two sides signed a peace treaty in 1979, was due to meet Egyptian health experts late Tuesday. An Israeli health ministry spokesman said Monday Mr. Sneh would discuss with the Egyptian counterpart Ali Abdel Fatah Al Makhzangui opposition by the Egyptian Doctors' Association to any cooperation with Israel. Mr. Sneh, who arrived late Monday, is due to leave Wednesday after visiting hospital and pharmaceutical factories.

Pilot killed, 4 injured in Tehran air crash

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian air force plane crashed into a school and apartment blocks here Tuesday during exercises for army day killing its pilot and injuring at least four people.

The official news agency IRNA said the pilot died when his Swiss-made TC-6 training plane plummeted from the skies.

Four people in a residential area of southern Tehran, including two schoolgirls and a woman, were injured by flying debris, IRNA said. But witnesses put the toll at around a dozen.

IRNA reported that the tail of the plane hit Shahid Bahrami girls school. The only two pupils in the yard at the time were slightly injured.

Other parts of the plane were scattered over a radius of 1,500 metres and windows were smashed, the agency said. The crash took place as the plane flew at low altitude during air manoeuvres.

IRNA denied an earlier report from witnesses that a mid-air collision was the cause of the crash. Iranian experts have launched an investigation.

Seconds before the accident several witnesses including an AFP journalist said they saw two planes fly too close to each other. Some witnesses said the plane's wings touched.

The plane was believed to have exploded while still in the air, explaining the low number of injuries. The densely-populated area where the debris landed, near a railway station, was sealed off by security forces.

A military source told IRNA that the training plane had crashed because of a technical failure while it was trying to land at Tehran's

Mehrabad airport.

The rest of the parade passed off without incident and was marked by the first public appearance of Iran's Zol-faghar tank, an improved version of the Russian T-72, and the Cobra armoured troop transporter on caterpillar tracks.

Chief-of-Staff Hassan Firuzabadi called for U.S. troops to pull out of the Gulf region and urged cooperation between neighbouring countries as he addressed the start of the parade.

"The accusations and threats by the Americans against Iran are only a ploy to trick the people of the region and pillage their resources," he told crack units gathered in Azadi Square.

"The Americans would do better to withdraw their forces in this region," the general added.

The United States has stepped up pressure on Iran which it accuses of supporting international terrorism and trying to build up a nuclear capacity. Tehran has denied both charges.

Newspapers have in the past questioned the safety of air travel in Iran, especially after air force chief General Mansour Sattari was killed in a crash along with five other top officials and six crewmen on Jan. 5.

Their plane crashed shortly after take-off from a military base of Esfahan, central Iran. A Fokker F-28 civilian airliner crashed while on a flight from Esfahan to Tehran in October, killing 66 people.

In February 1993, an Iranian airliner and a Sukhoi-22 fighter plane collided killing 134 people after take-off from Mehrabad airport. And 39 people died in a crash near Saveh, northwest of Tehran, in April 1992.

End in sight for Bahrain unrest, government says

MANAMA (Agencies) — Bahrain authorities said Tuesday that sporadic unrest here was nearly over and blamed extremist religious groups for planning the troubles.

In a statement published by local papers, Interior Minister Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Khalifa said riots which broke out in early December had been "incited by a foreign organisation."

"Through investigation, information and confessions made to the judges it was clear that an extreme religious organisation was behind them," he said.

He did not name the group or which foreign body had been behind the violence, saying only the "security situation in Bahrain is stable and acts of violence and unrest are coming to an end."

On Monday diplomats held a second meeting with Shiite leaders in a bid to quell the unrest which has shaken the Gulf emirate since early December.

It followed the arrest and expulsion of a leading Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Ali Salman who had called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

Bahrain has tacitly accused Iran of influencing the Gulf archipelago's Shiite Muslim community.

The minister's statement

came ahead of the opening of an extraordinary meeting in Manama of interior ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Bahraini authorities on Monday freed 120 detainees as diplomats said the situation was calm.

Diplomats said around a dozen civilians and policemen were killed in the unrest, while Bahraini Information Minister Tareq Al Moayyed told AFP the civilian death toll was "less than 10" and three policemen had died.

Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa held talks with Shiite leaders.

The riots were the worst violence to hit the emirate since it gained its independence from Britain in 1971.

Sheikh Mohammad said in his comments published Tuesday that the GCC ministers would discuss internal security and coordinate their stance on "challenges and dangers threatening the security and stability of the region, considered one of the most important in the world."

He said investigations showed that the four-month-old unrest in Bahrain had been premeditated.

Arson attacks and riots have largely disappeared in the past few days.

All issues should be discussed with Syria — Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — To break the deadlock in Israel-Syria peace talks, the two countries should discuss all aspects of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, instead of focusing solely on security, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday.

Israel has refused to discuss details of withdrawing from the Golan Heights, which it seized in 1967, until security arrangements are worked out in talks between military experts.

"We must move to another agenda," Mr. Peres told the Haaretz newspaper. "One must think about a comprehensive approach, to discuss all four subjects at the same time — withdrawal and borders, peace and the nature of relations, security arrangements and the timetable."

Mr. Peres told army radio, however, that the demand to broaden the talks was not new. "I am afraid that if we only walk the narrow path, we will get stuck," he said.

Mr. Peres said the Israel-Syria agreement will recognise Syria's role in Lebanon.

"Whether one says it publicly or not, we understand that we are conducting one negotiation in regard to two countries," he said.

Cyprus accuses Turkey of blackmailing EU

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Cyprus accused Turkish prime minister Tansu Ciller on Tuesday of blackmailing the European Union (EU) by predicting a solution to the island's problems after her country became an EU member.

"The statements make clear that the key to the problem's solution is in Ankara... also clear is Turkey's bid to blackmail the European Union using the Cyprus problem," Cyprus government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides told journalists.

Cyprus has been divided since the 1974 Turkish invasion sparked by a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by a military junta then ruling Greece.

U.N. efforts to reunite the island under a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal system have failed so far.

Ms. Ciller, scheduled to meet President Bill Clinton on Wednesday, referred to Cyprus at a news conference on Monday in the United States.

"I feel that the very ultimate, if we can get to the ultimate eventually, will be if and when Turkey becomes a full member of the European Union," Ms. Ciller said.

"Then the whole issue of Cyprus will be resolved when Turkey and Greece are within the same shelter," she added.

Cyprus said that it would take Ms. Ciller's comments up with the United States.

"They (the statements) also justify Turkey's intransigent stand on Cyprus throughout the year. We are going to set these statements

before the U.S. administration in the hope that President Bill Clinton will ask Mrs. Ciller to clarify," said spokesman Cassoulides.

Mr. Cassoulides, at a meeting later with reporters over lunch, said that Cyprus did not see its bid for EU membership as a substitute for other channels, such as U.N.-sponsored talks with the north, to end the island's division.

"The EU policy has been pursued to service our efforts for unification and not as an alternative," Mr. Cassoulides said.

In 1983, the island's Turkish Cypriot minority declared an independent state in the north which is only recognised by Turkey. It has over 35,000 troops stationed there.

The internationally-recognised republic of Cyprus has applied for full EU membership. As part of the deal, Greece last month lifted its veto against Turkey's customs union with the EU and Cyprus was promised accession talks to start six months after a union summit in 1996.

U.S. officials said the Cyprus issue and improving Greco-Turkish relations, strained primarily as a result of the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus, will be discussed at Wednesday's Clinton-Ciller meeting.

Protracted U.N.-sponsored negotiations to reunify the island in a bizonal federation have been deadlocked for years. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has blamed Turkey for the impasse.